

MARVEL

1

SPIDER-MAN

INDIA



ANDERSON

NIKESH SHUKLA
ABHISHEK MALSUNI
NEERAJ MENON



PAVITR PRABHAKAR HAS THE PROPORTIONAL SPEED, STRENGTH, AND AGILITY OF A SPIDER, ADHESIVE FINGERTIPS AND TOES, AND THE UNIQUE PRECOGNITIVE AWARENESS OF DANGER CALLED "SPIDER-SENSE"! AFTER THE TRAGIC DEATH OF HIS UNCLE BHIM, PAVITR UNDERSTOOD THAT WITH GREAT POWER THERE MUST ALSO COME GREAT RESPONSIBILITY. HE BECAME...

SPIDER-MAN

INDIA

"SEVA" PART I

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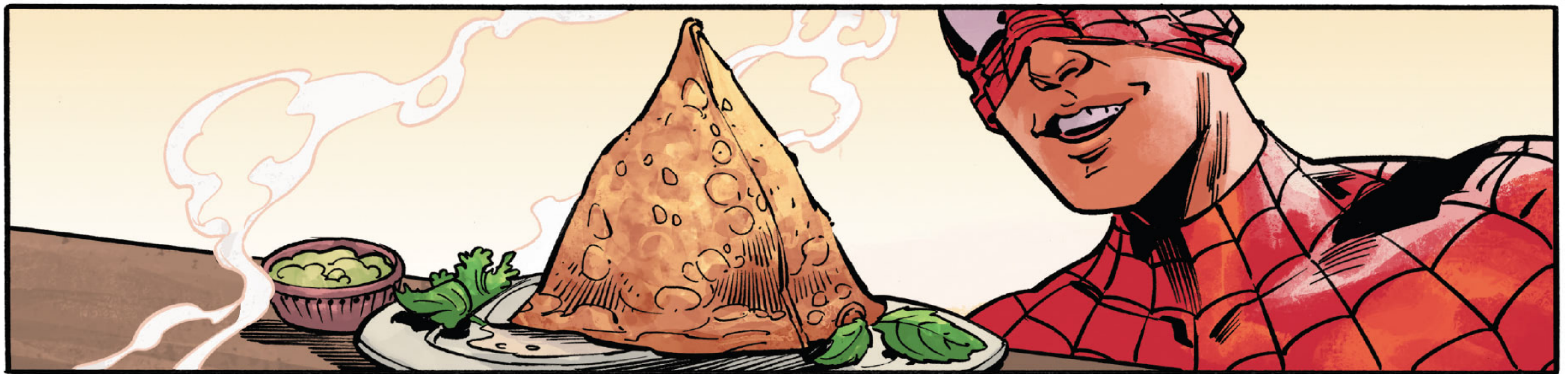
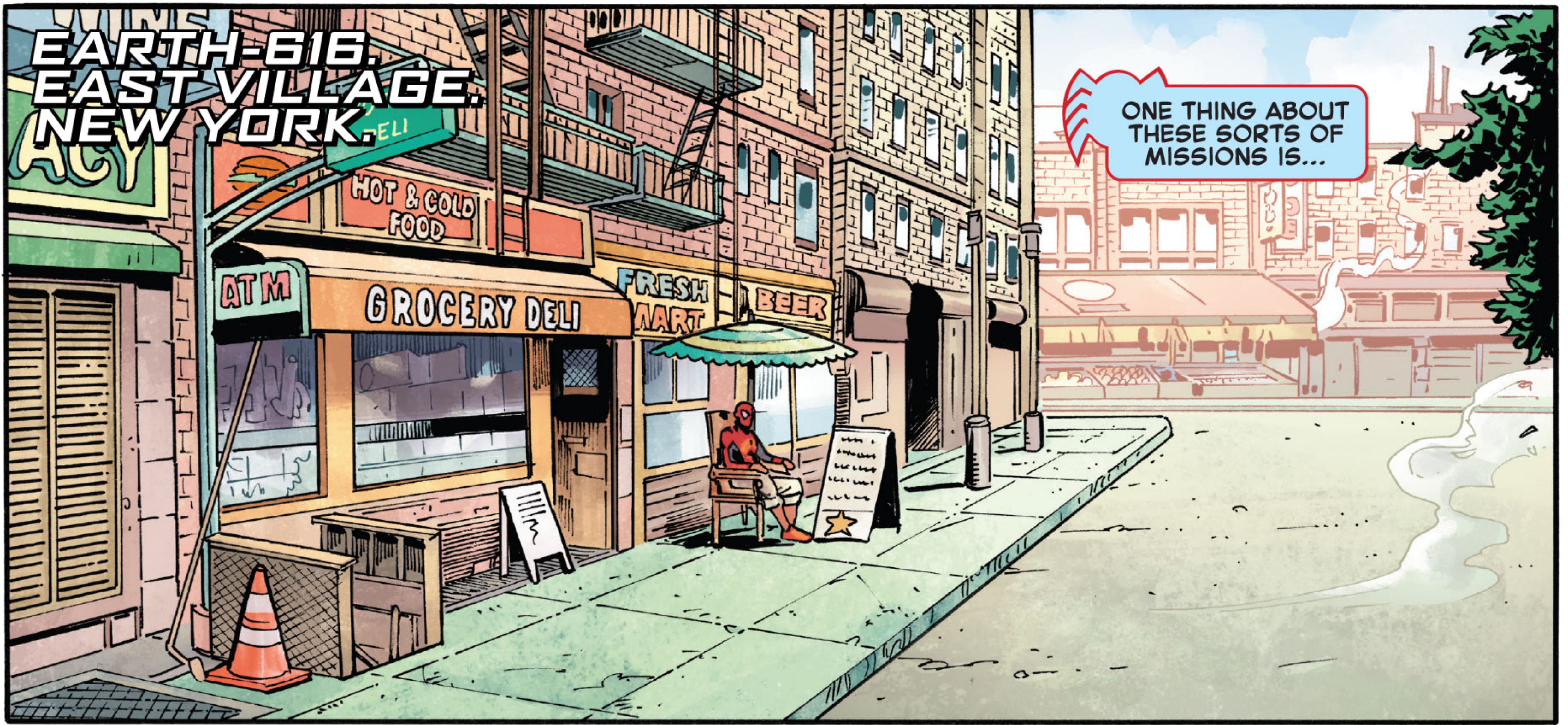
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SPIDER-MAN CREATED BY STAN LEE & STEVE DITKO

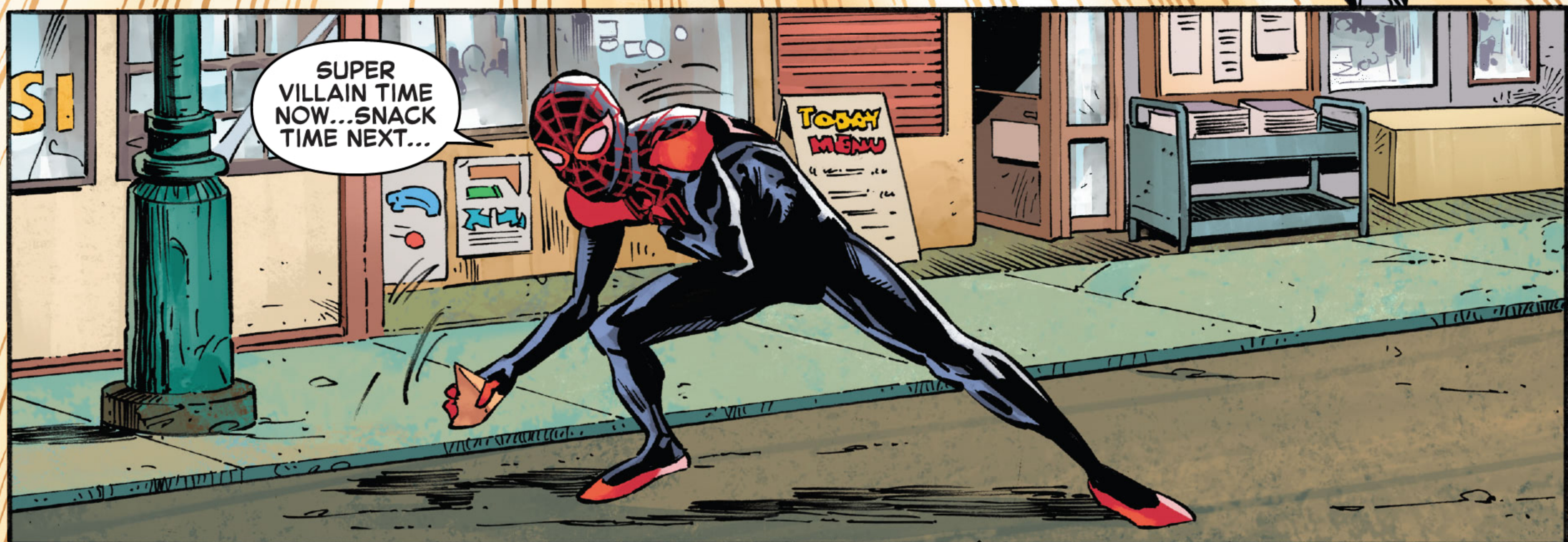
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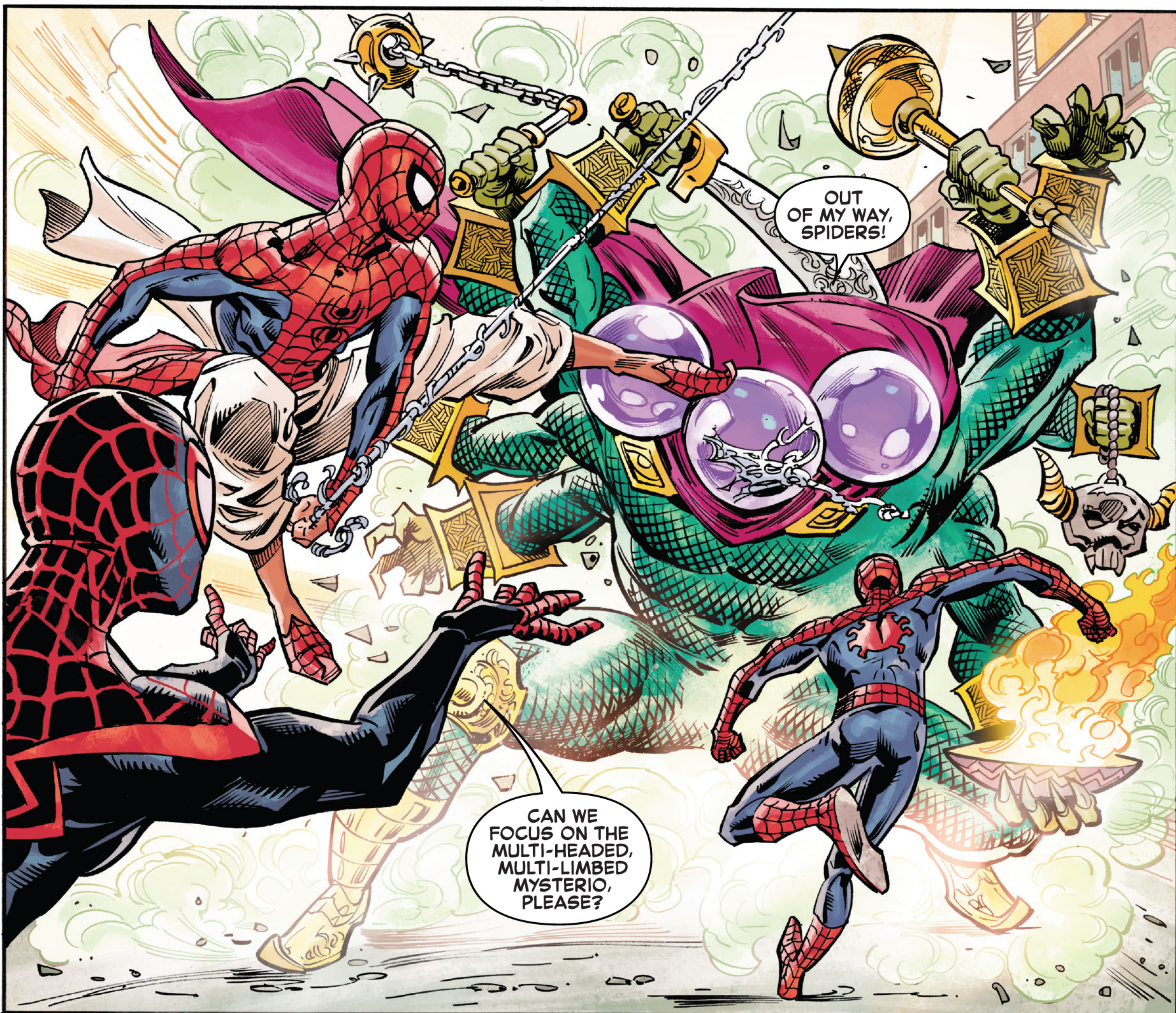
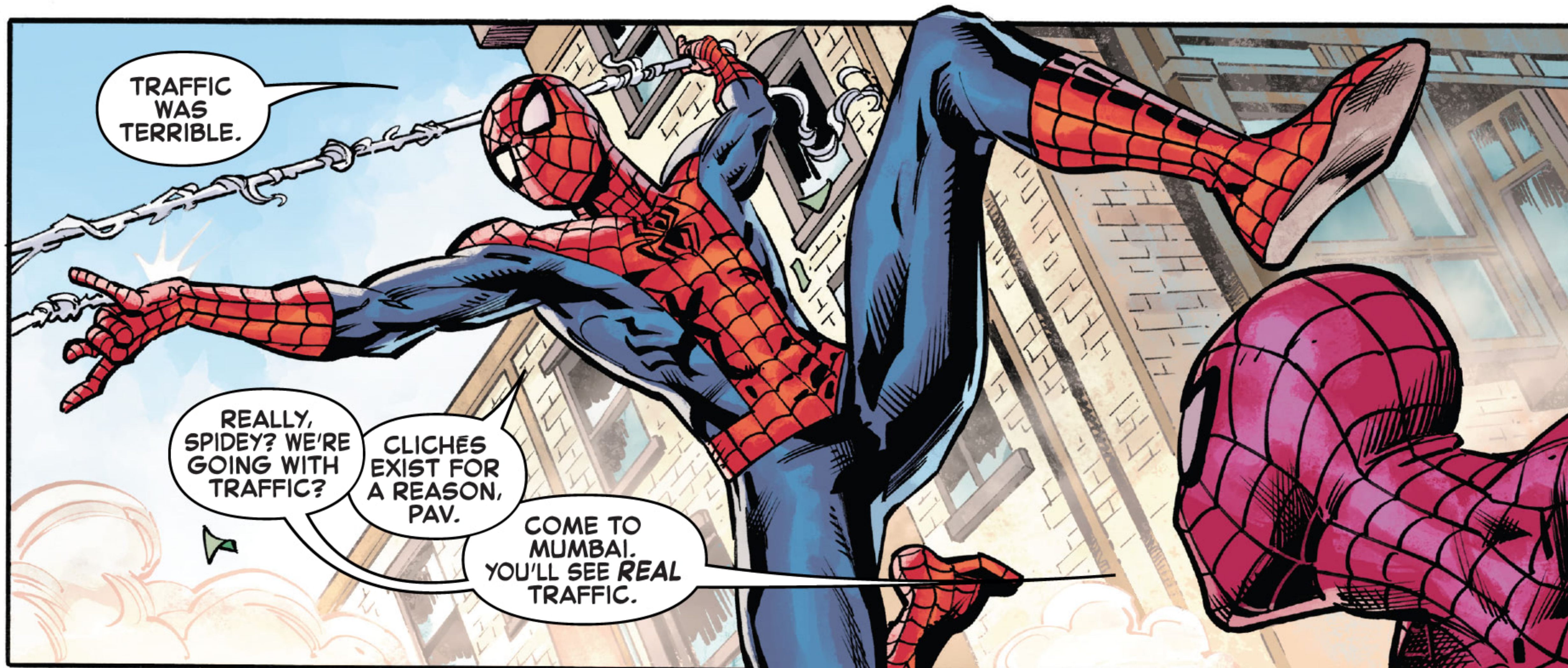


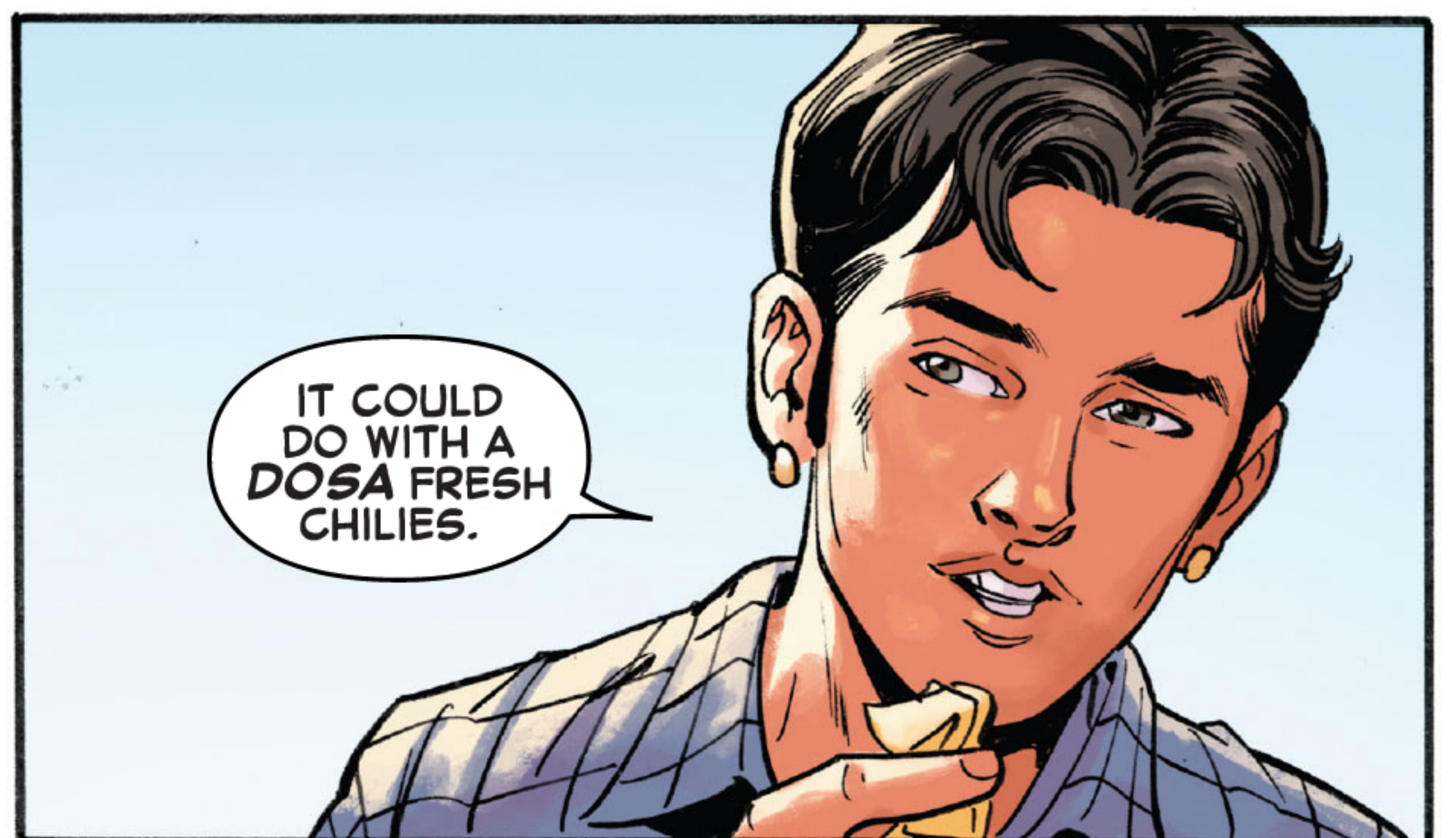
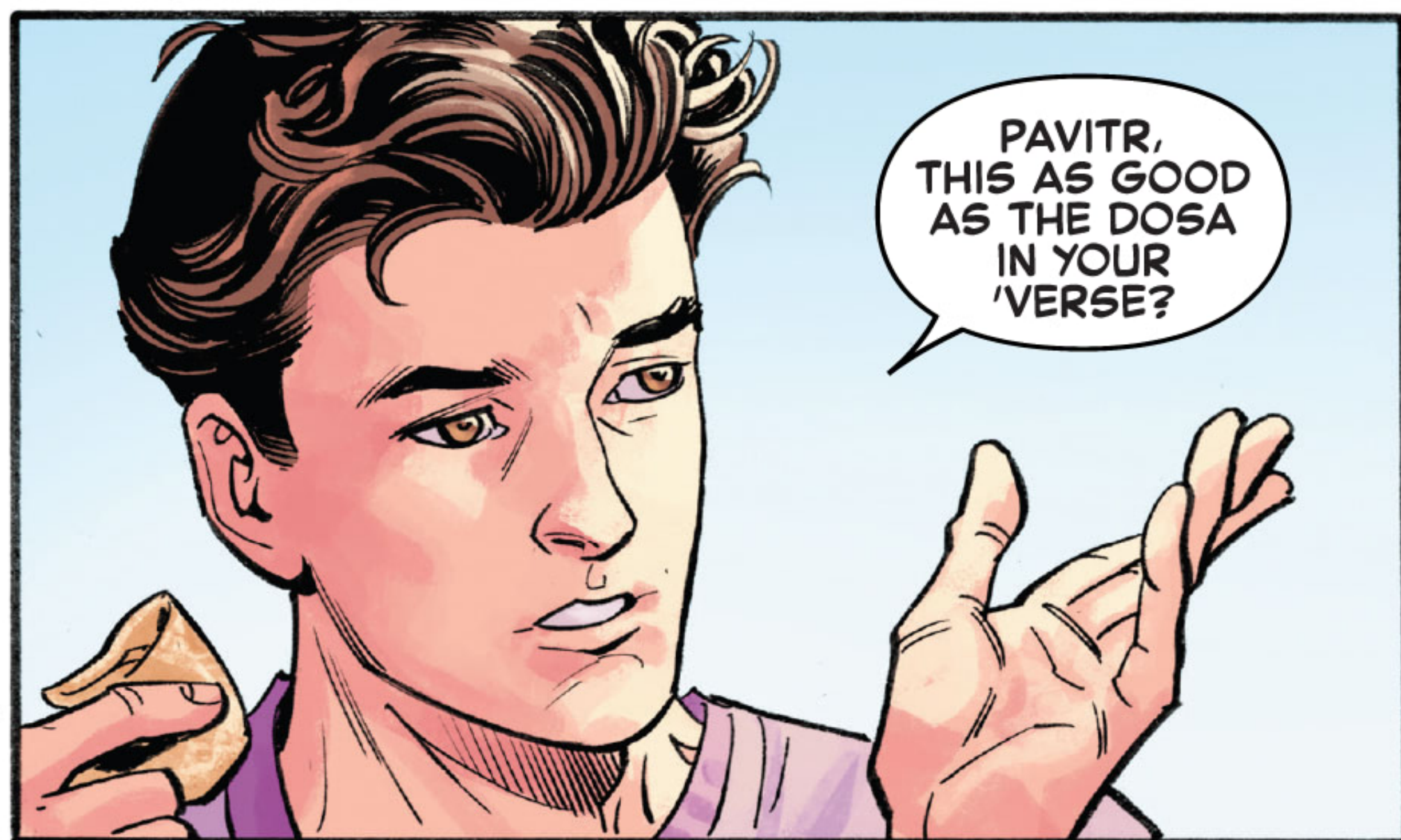
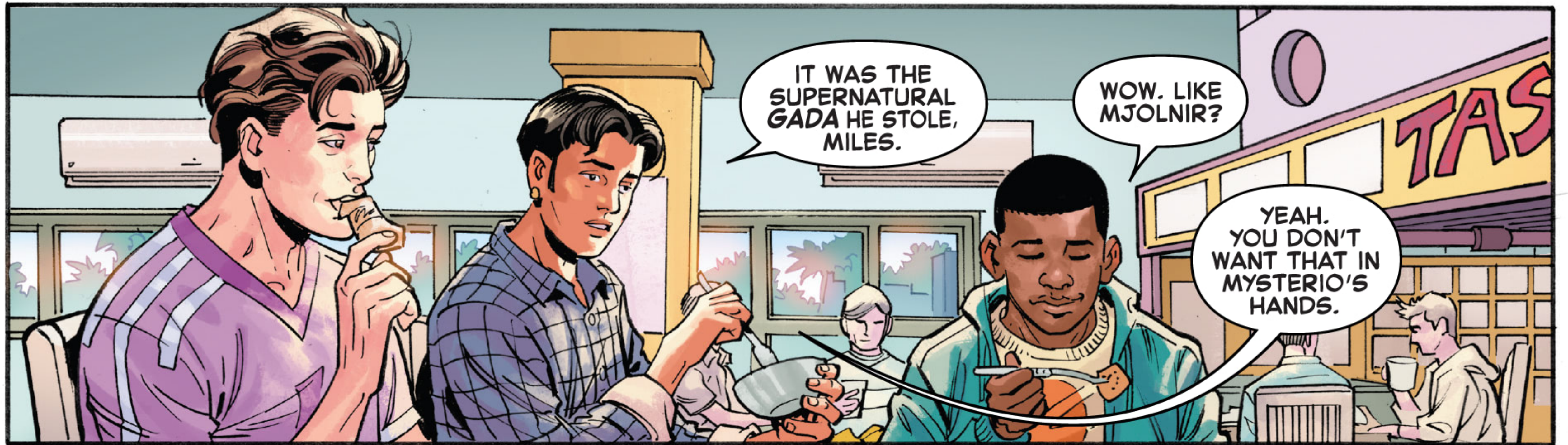
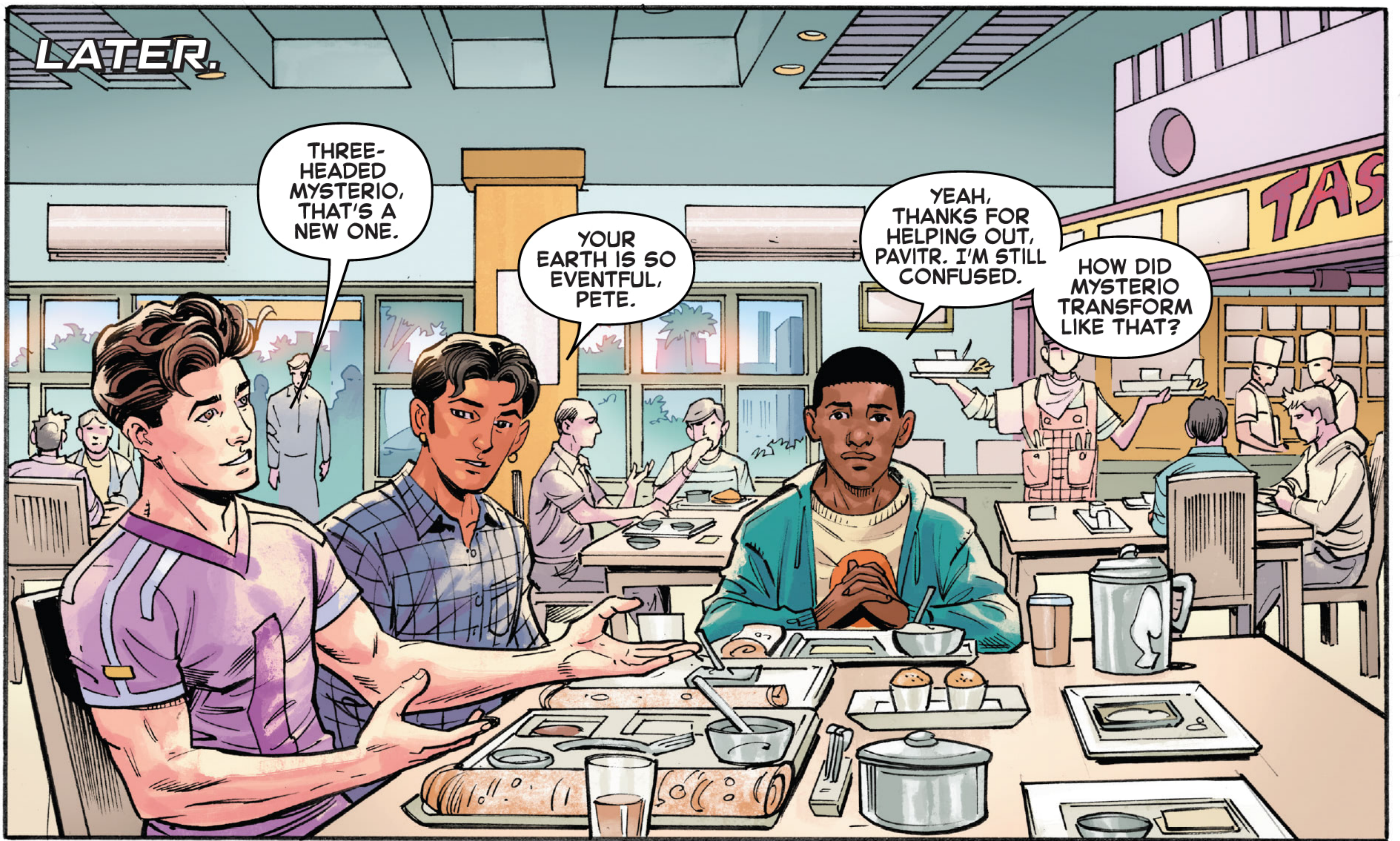
SOUNDS LIKE
A JOB...FOR
SPIDER-MAN!

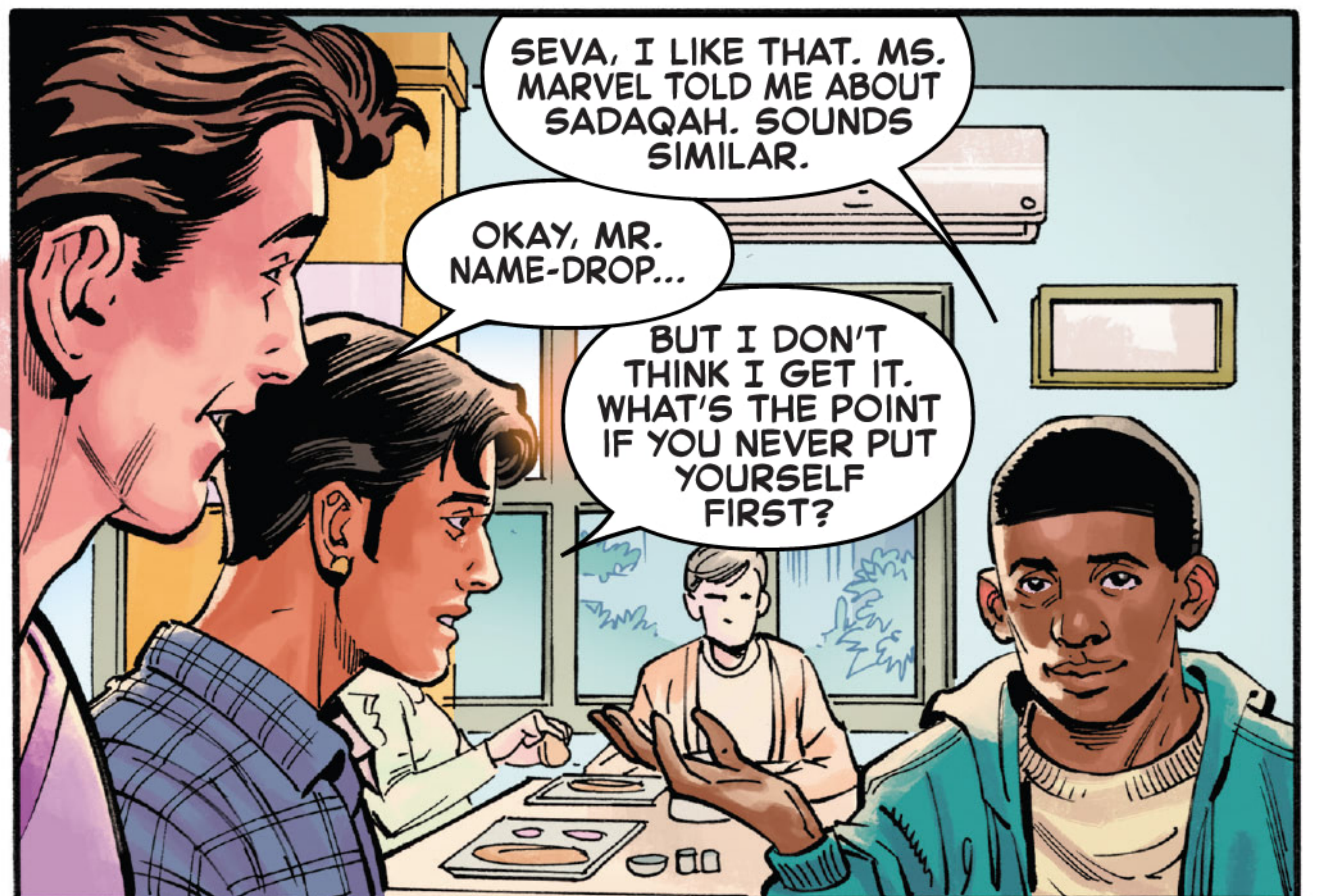
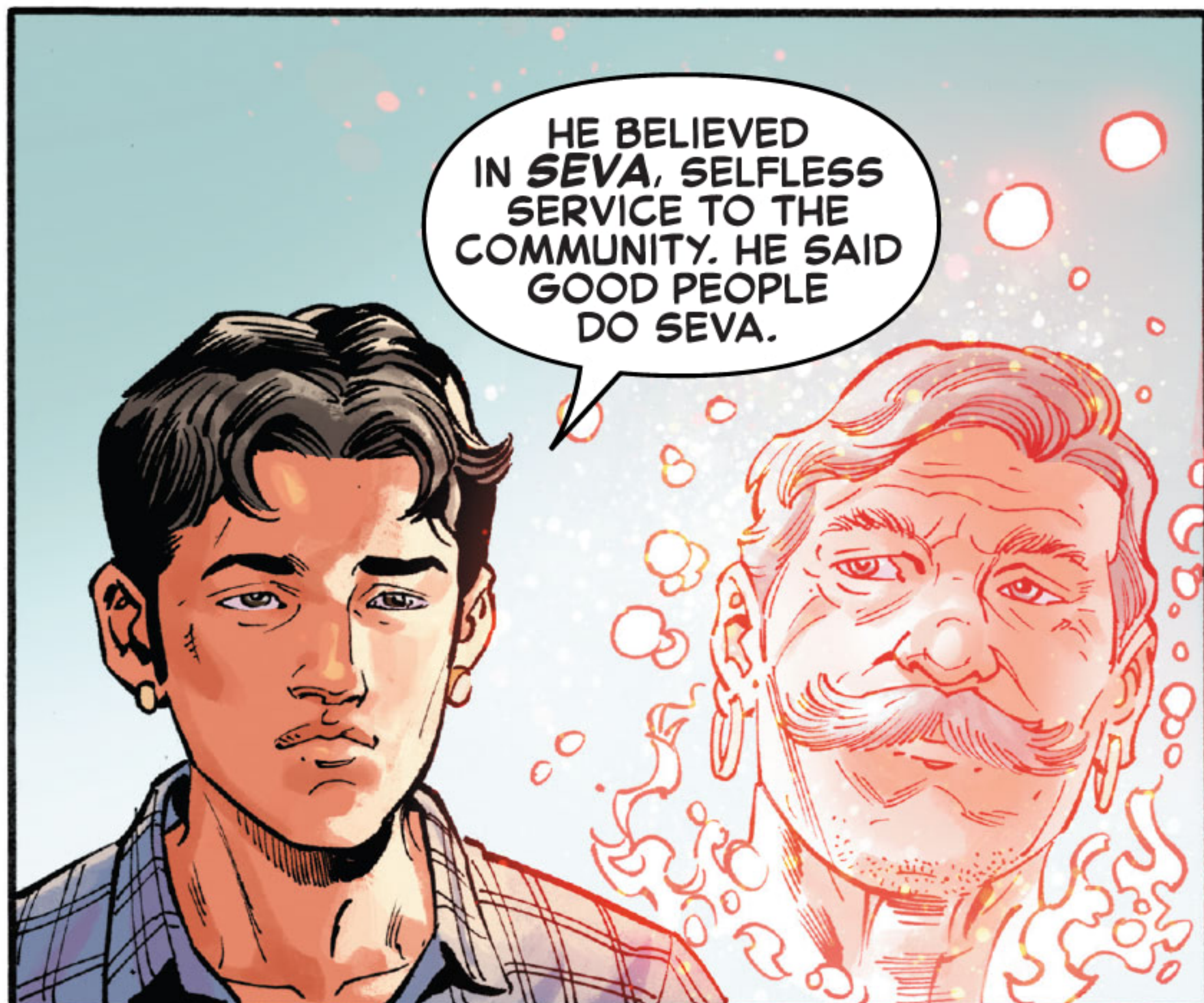
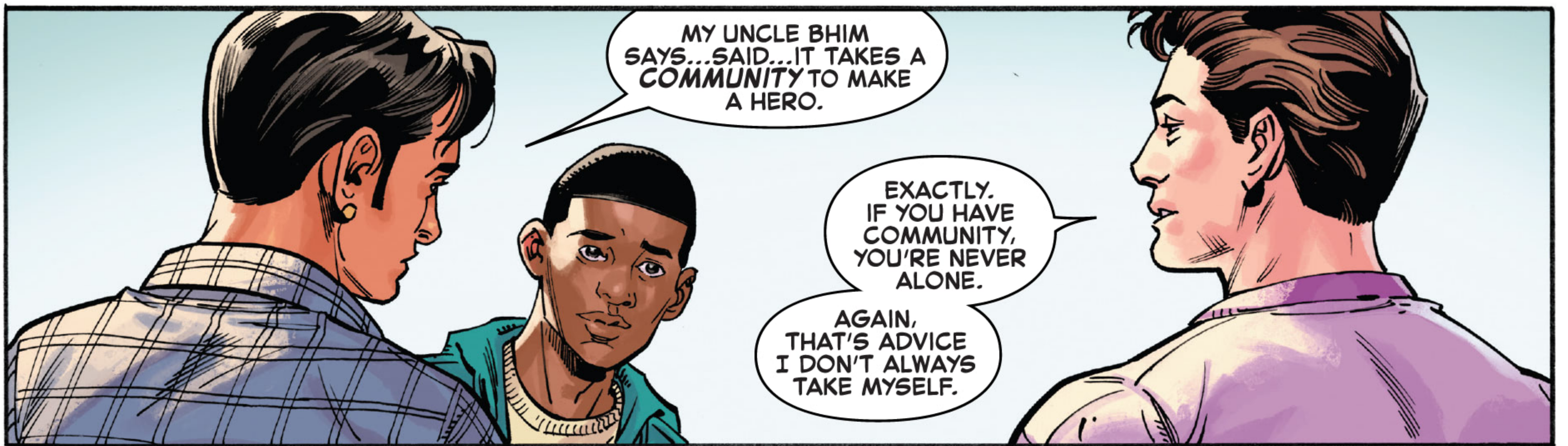
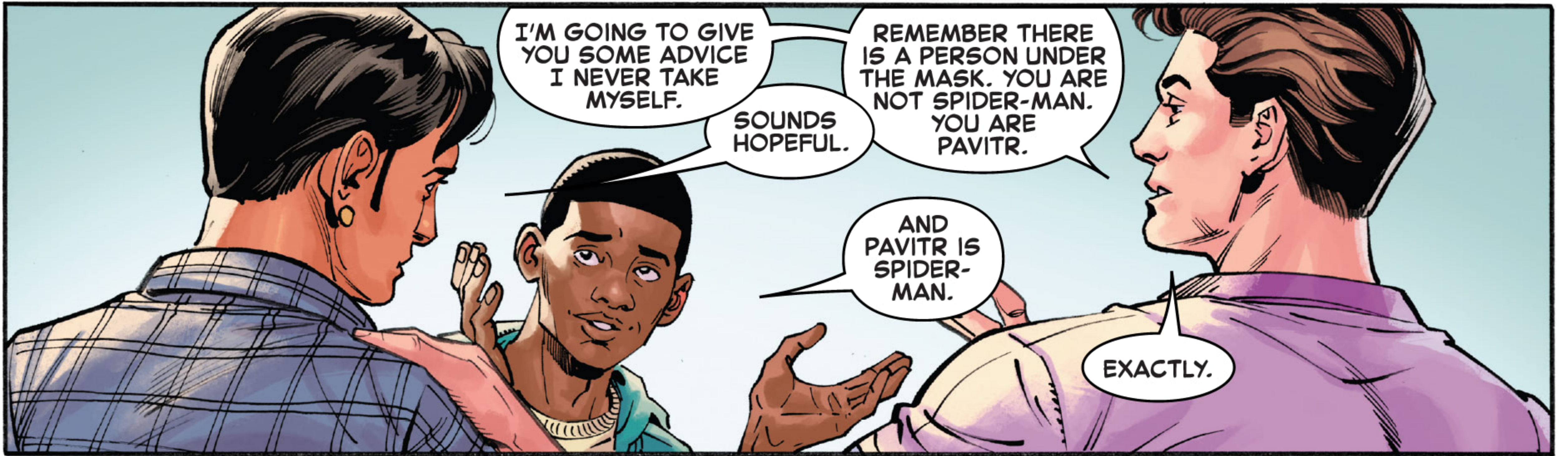
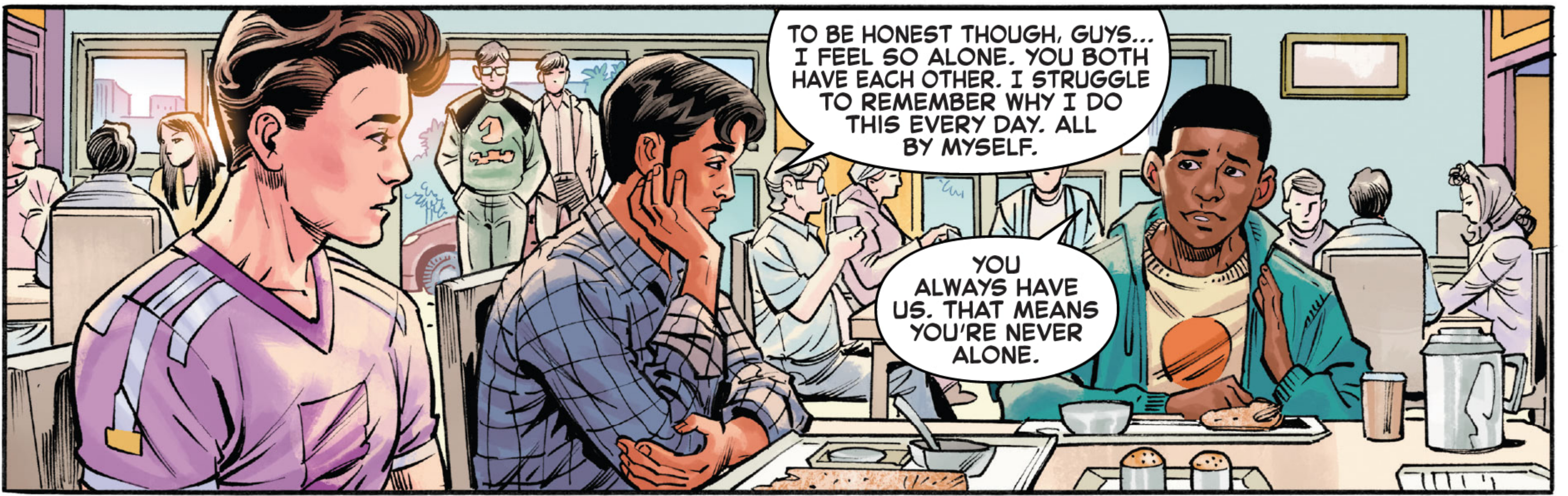


SUPER
VILLAIN TIME
NOW...SNACK
TIME NEXT...









**EARTH-50101.
MUMBAI, INDIA.**

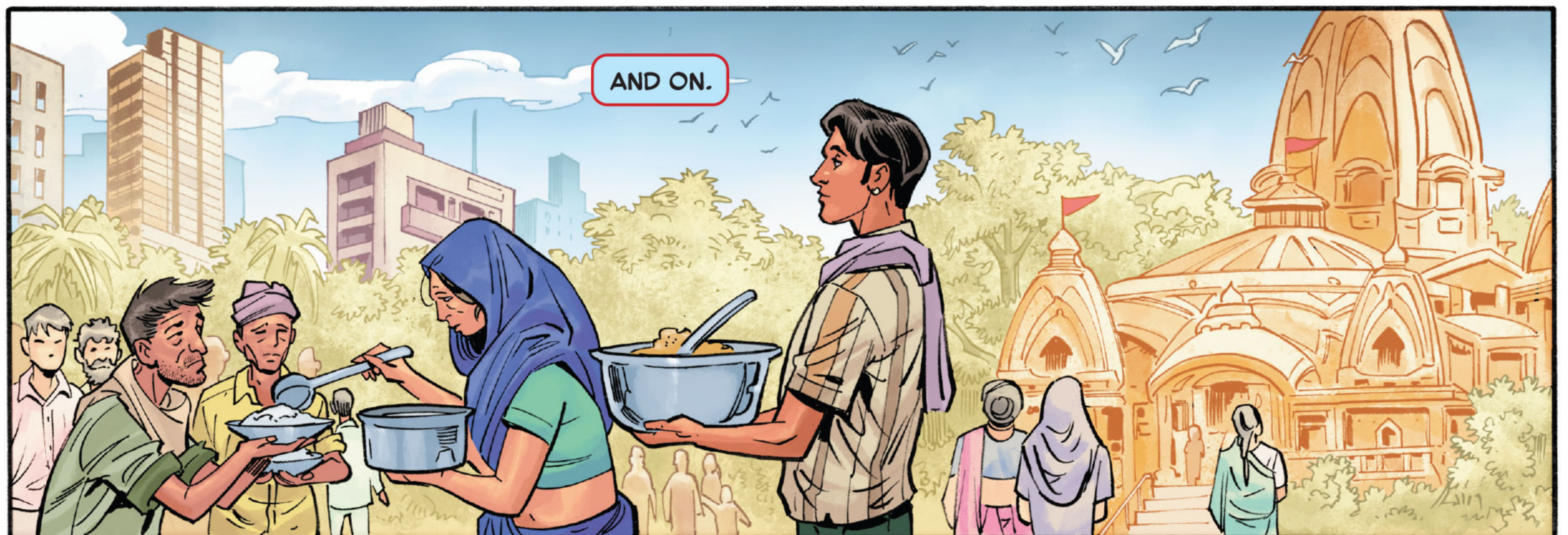
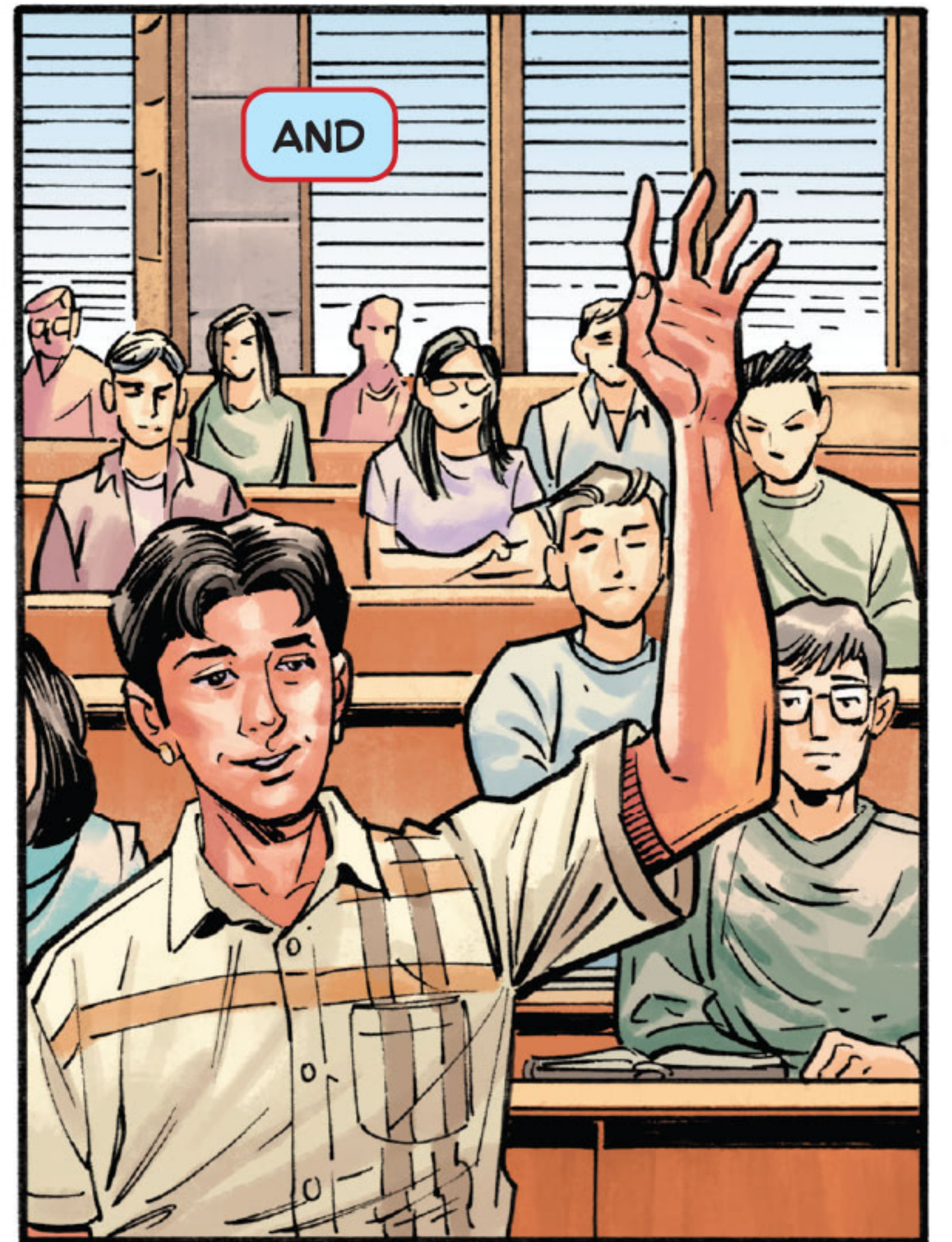
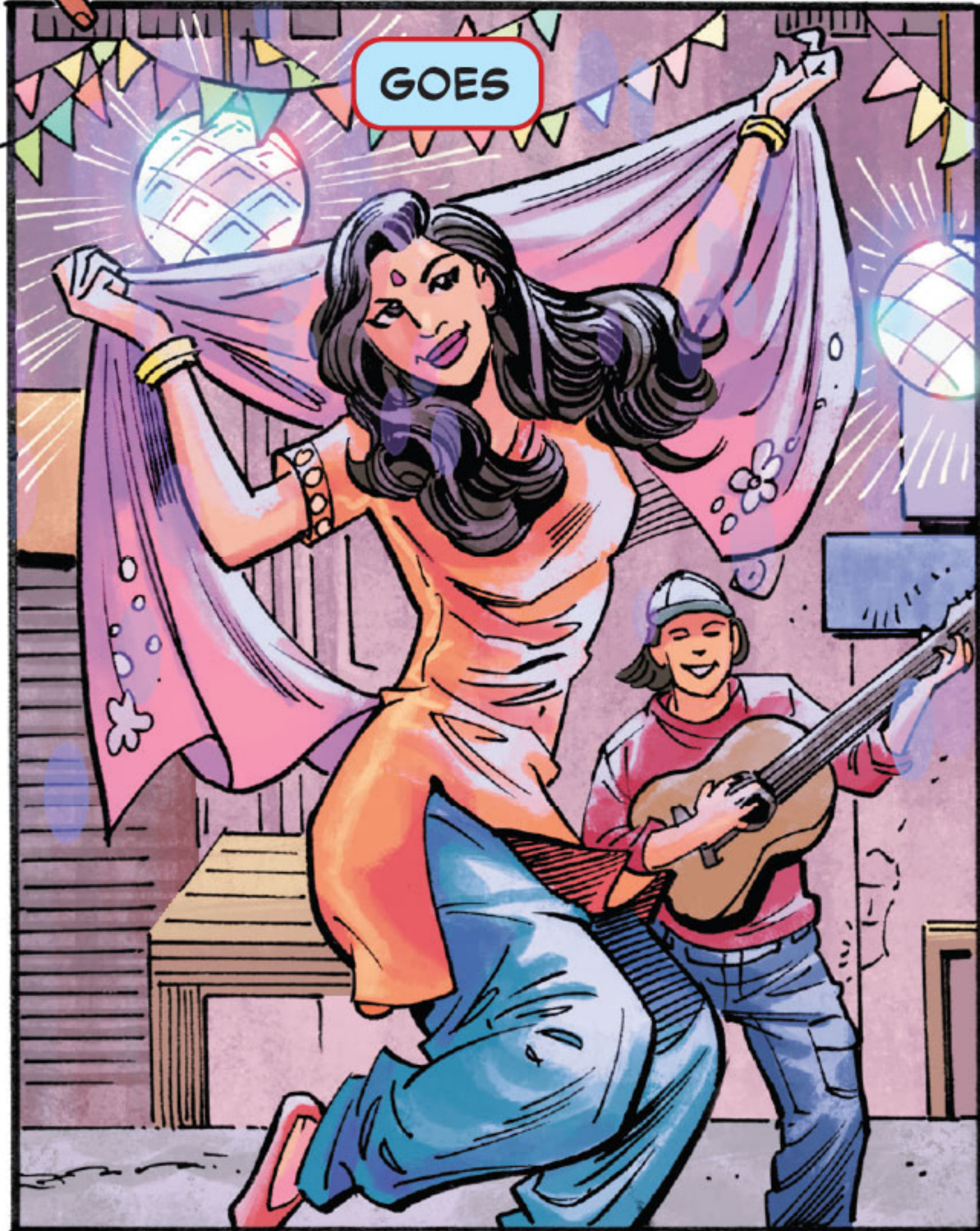
OVER 21
MILLION PEOPLE
LIVE IN THIS
CITY.

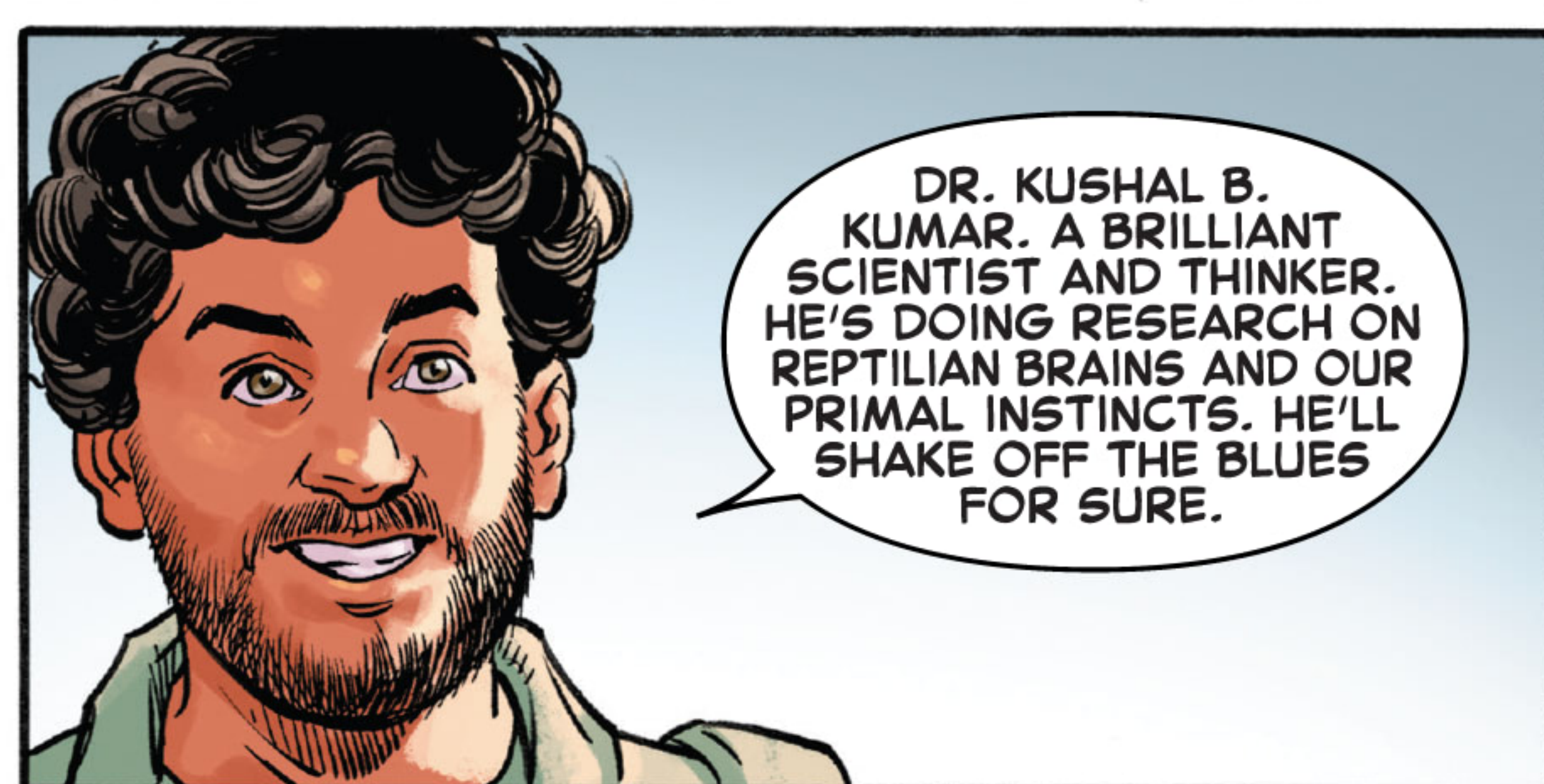
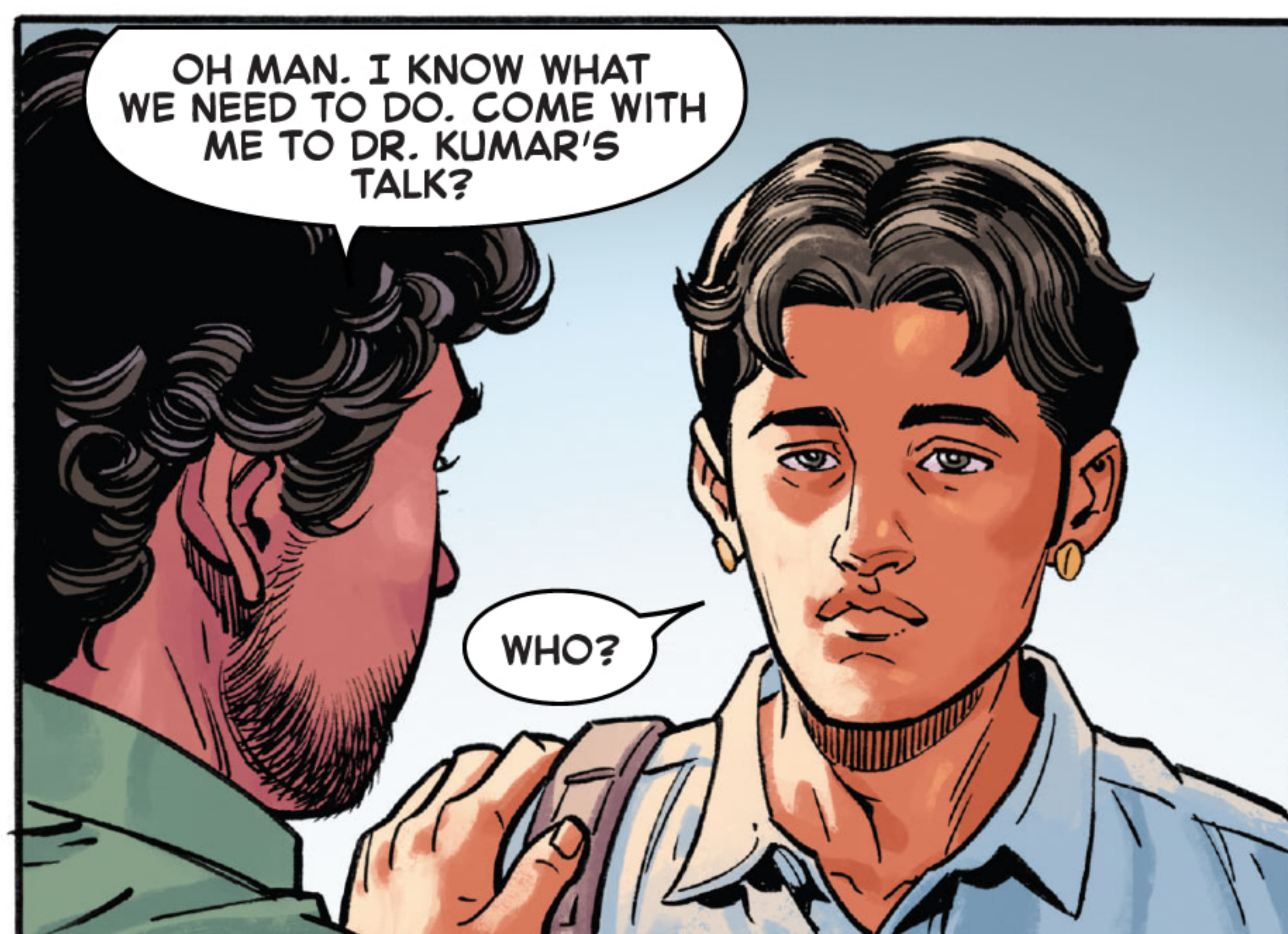
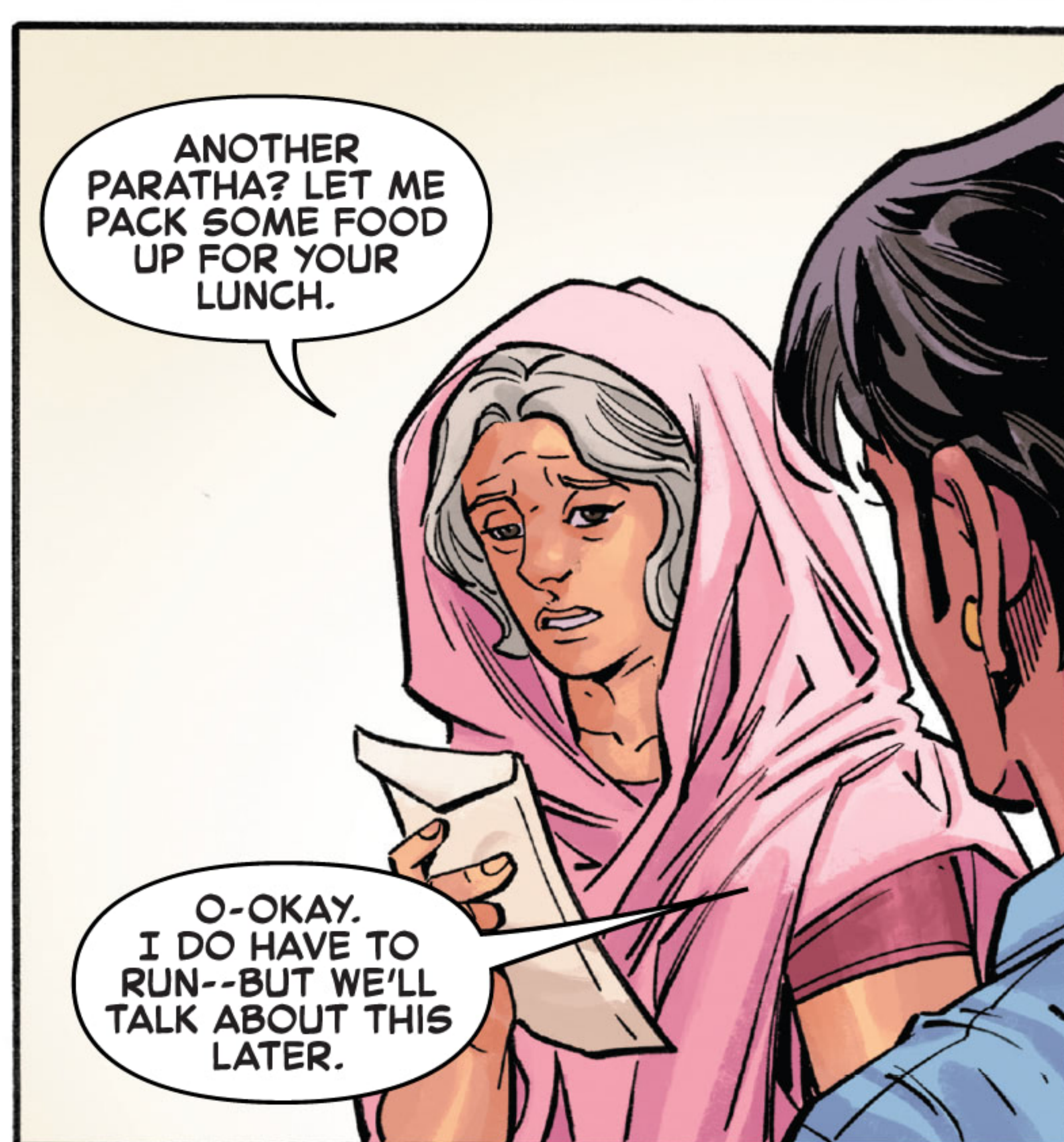
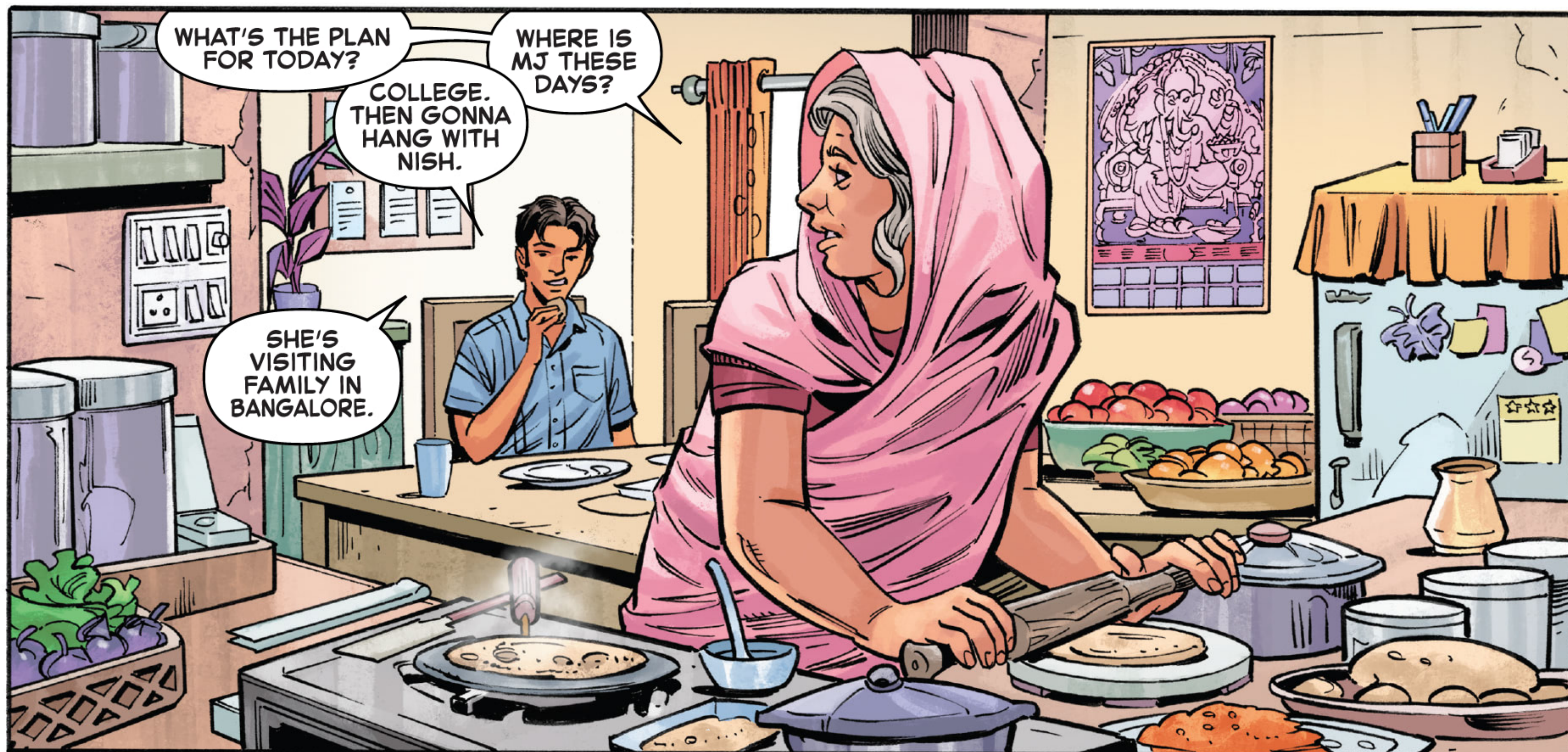
I CAN'T
SAVE THEM
ALL.

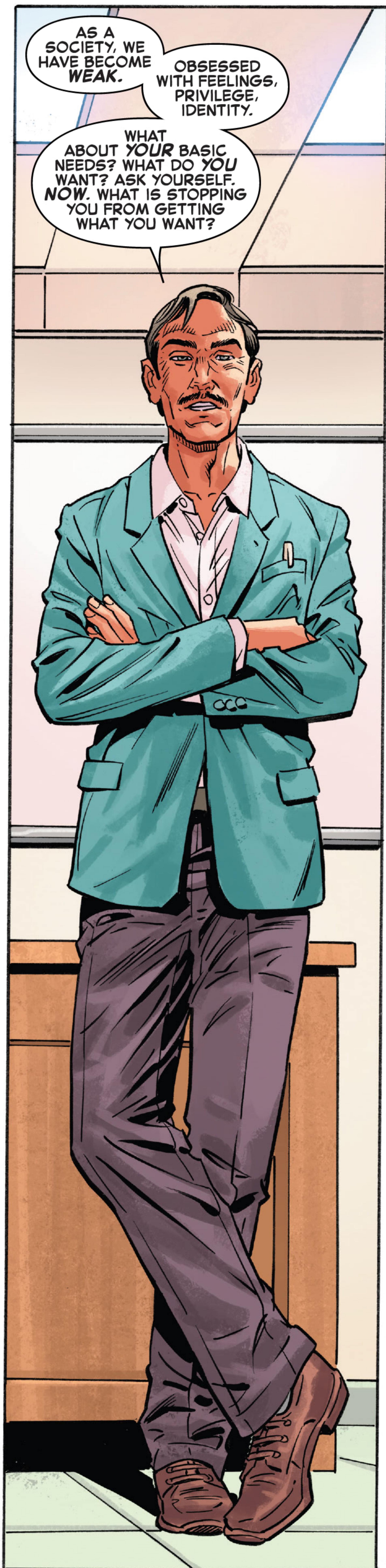
I DON'T
KNOW WHY
I DO THIS.

UNCLE BHIM WOULD
TELL ME I SIMPLY
HAVE NO CHOICE IN
THE MATTER. BUT HE'S
NOT HERE ANYMORE.

I'M
HUNGRY.



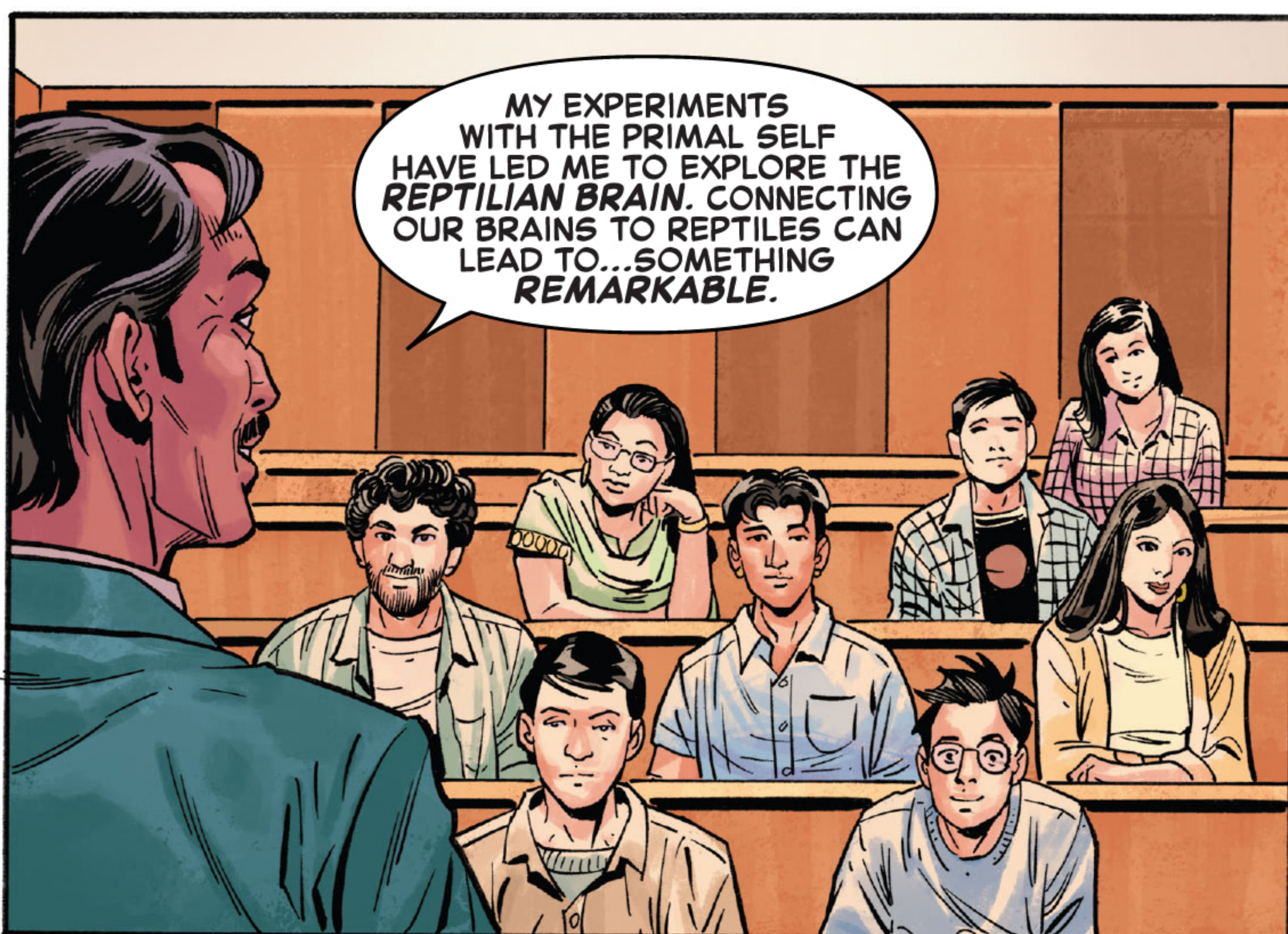




AS A SOCIETY, WE HAVE BECOME WEAK.

OBSESSED WITH FEELINGS, PRIVILEGE, IDENTITY.

WHAT ABOUT YOUR BASIC NEEDS? WHAT DO YOU WANT? ASK YOURSELF. NOW. WHAT IS STOPPING YOU FROM GETTING WHAT YOU WANT?



MY EXPERIMENTS WITH THE PRIMAL SELF HAVE LED ME TO EXPLORE THE REPTILIAN BRAIN. CONNECTING OUR BRAINS TO REPTILES CAN LEAD TO...SOMETHING REMARKABLE.

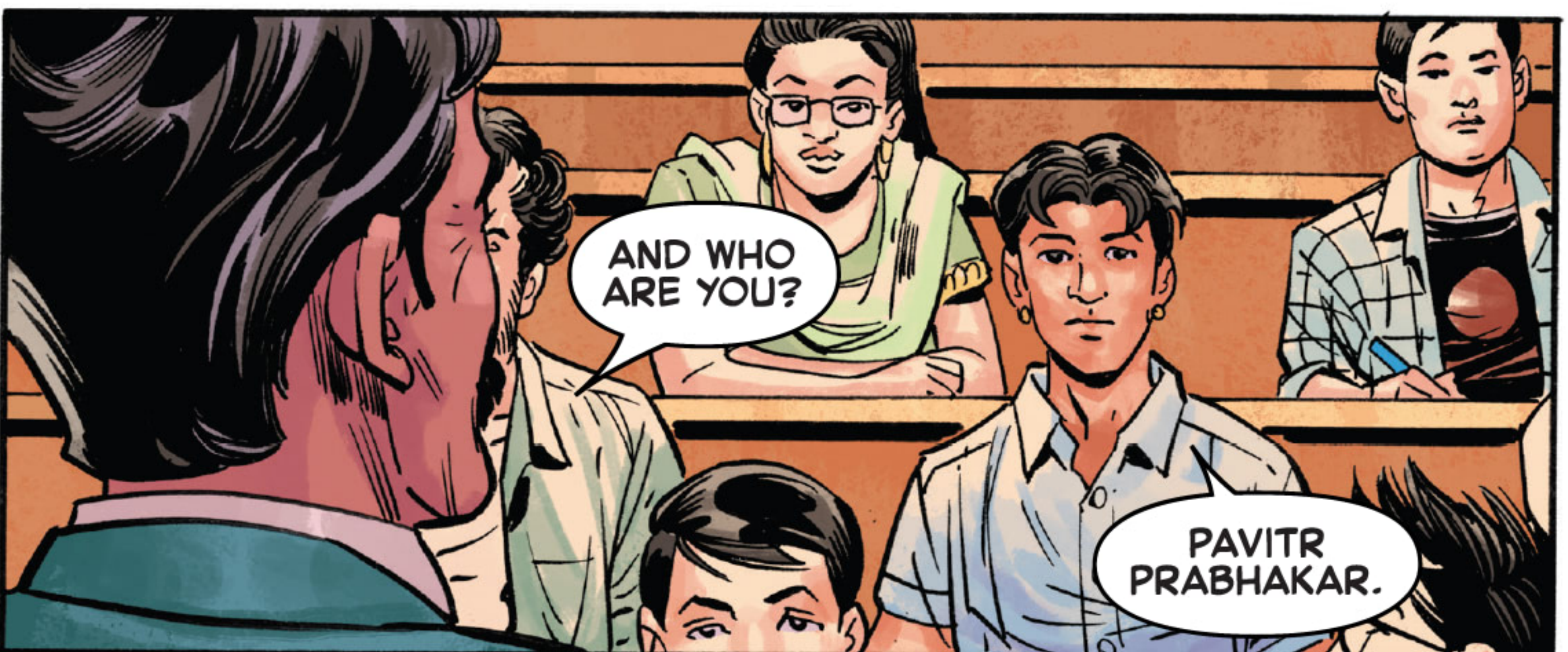


TRIGGERING OUR REPTILIAN BRAINS CAN ACCESS OUR PRIMAL SELVES. WE CAN BE THE **BEST** VERSION OF OURSELVES.

UNSTOPPABLE FORCES OF NATURE.



HOW DOES ONE BRAIN KNOW WHAT THE OTHER WANTS?

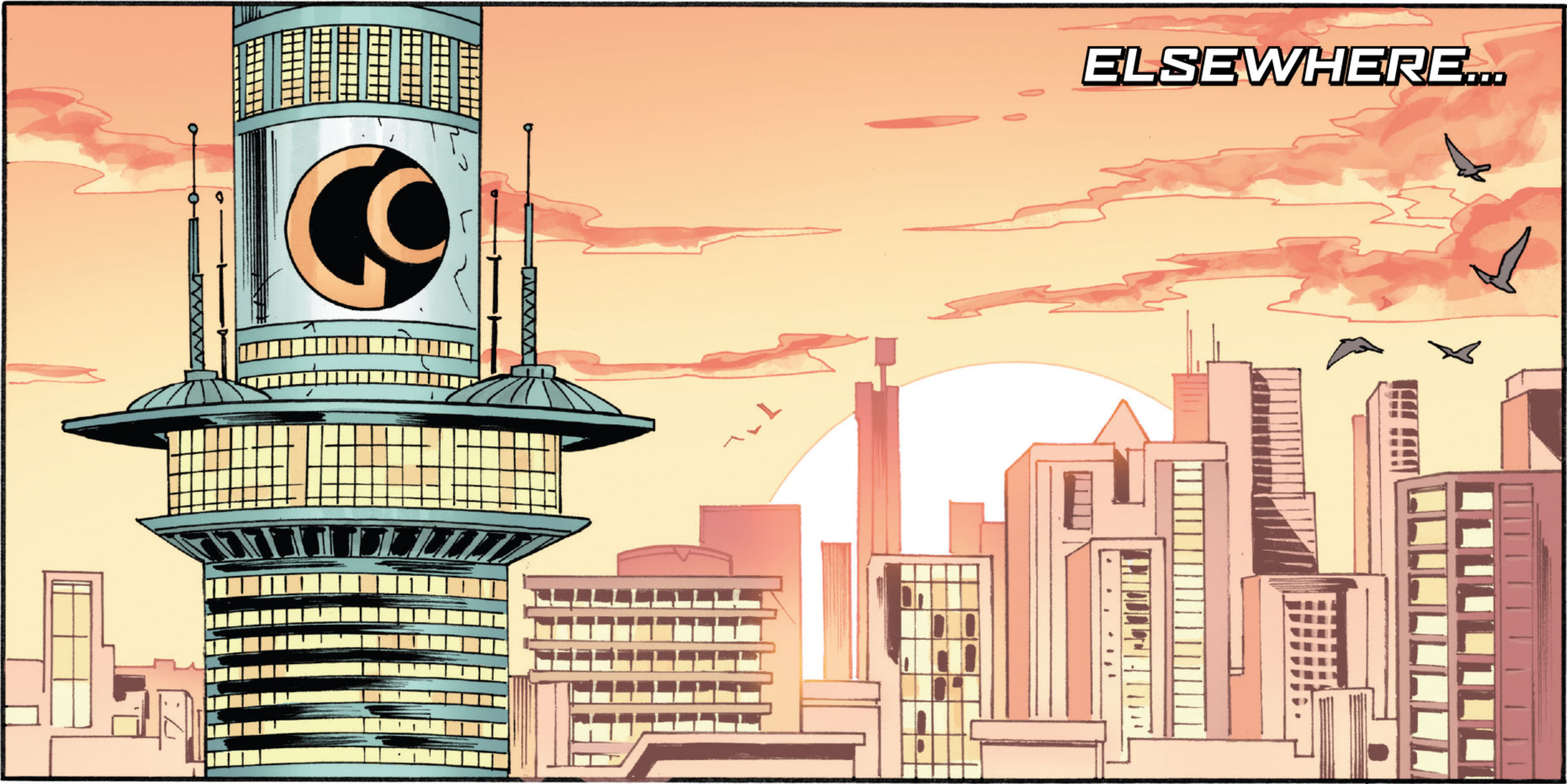


AND WHO ARE YOU?

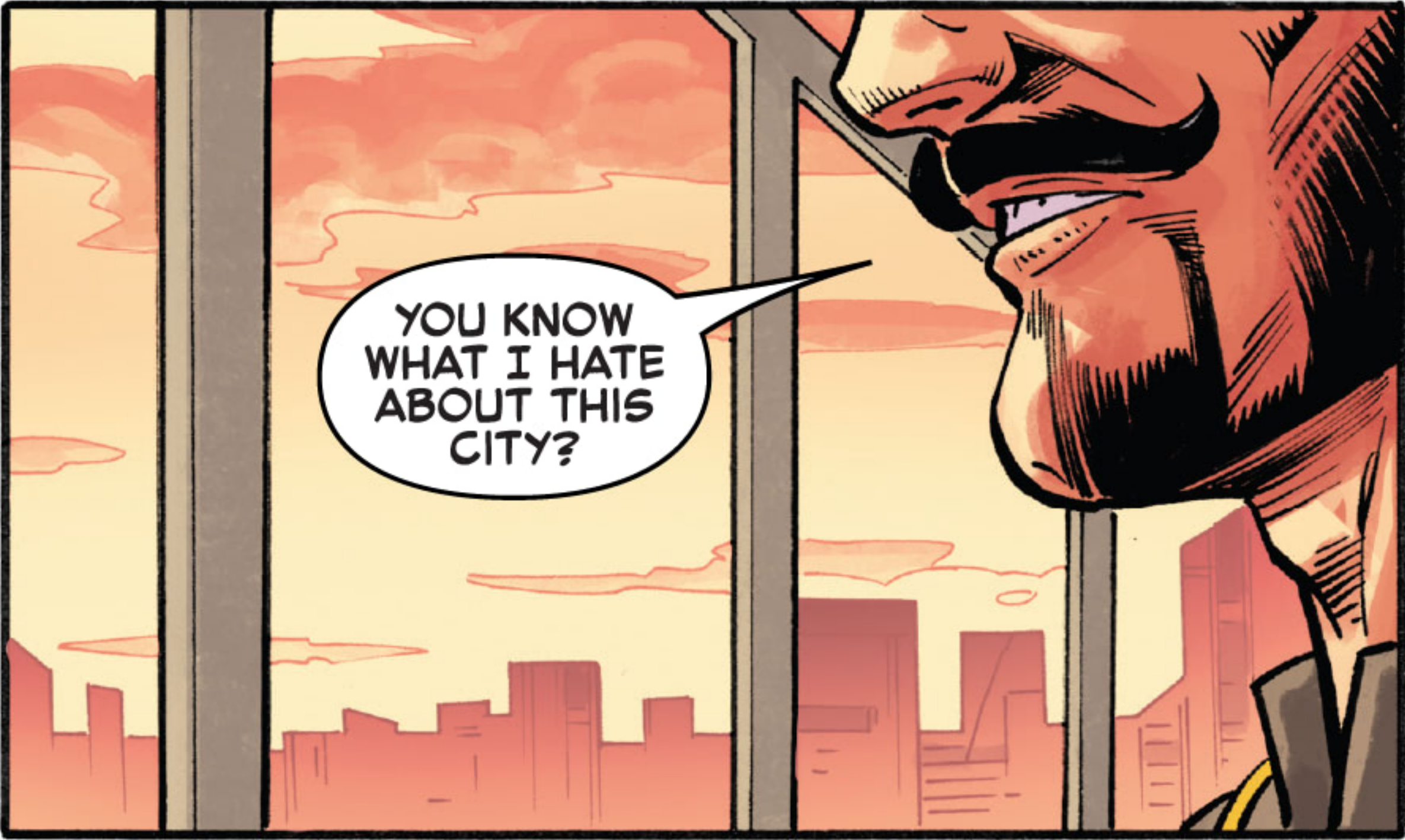
PAVITR PRABHAKAR.



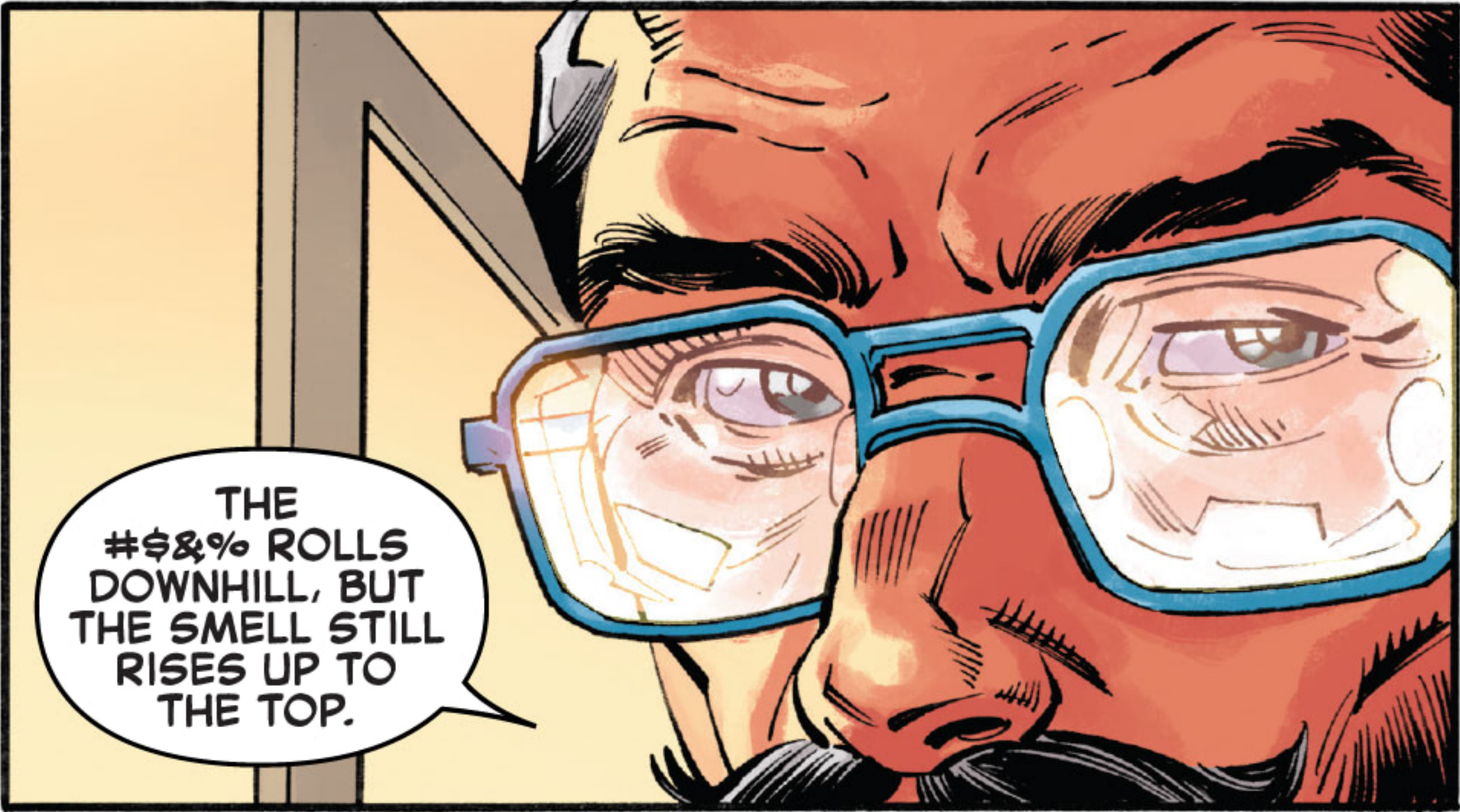
YOUNG MR. PRABHAKAR, IT WOULD BE EASIER IF I SHOWED YOU AFTER CLASS.



ELSEWHERE...



YOU KNOW
WHAT I HATE
ABOUT THIS
CITY?

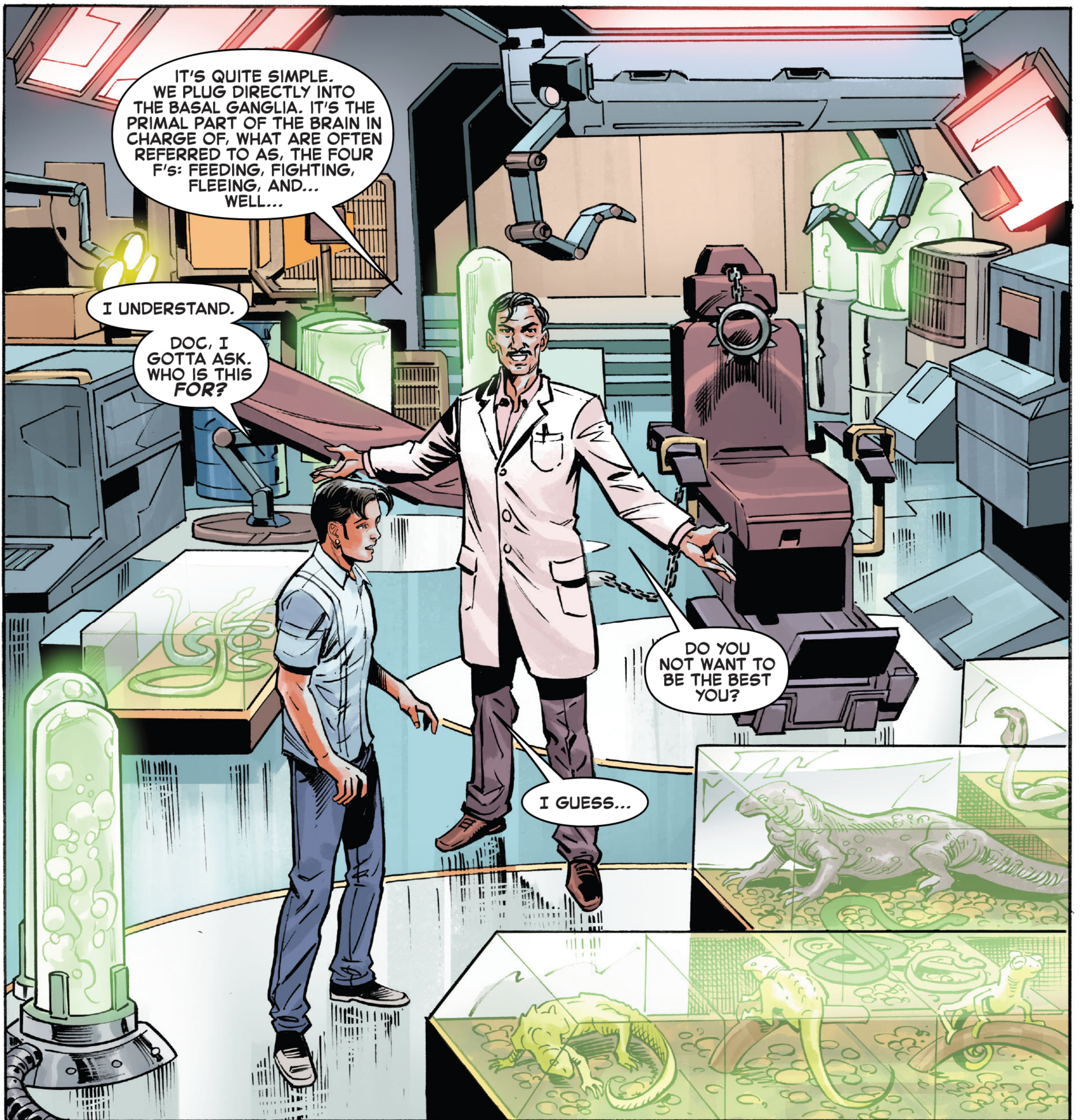


THE
#&% ROLLS
DOWNHILL, BUT
THE SMELL STILL
RISES UP TO
THE TOP.



TELL ME...
WHAT'S WRONG
WITH THIS
VIEW?





IT'S QUITE SIMPLE.
WE PLUG DIRECTLY INTO
THE BASAL GANGLIA. IT'S THE
PRIMAL PART OF THE BRAIN IN
CHARGE OF, WHAT ARE OFTEN
REFERRED TO AS, THE FOUR
F's: FEEDING, FIGHTING,
FLEEING, AND...
WELL...

I UNDERSTAND.

DOC, I
GOTTA ASK.
WHO IS THIS
FOR?

DO YOU
NOT WANT TO
BE THE BEST
YOU?

I GUESS...

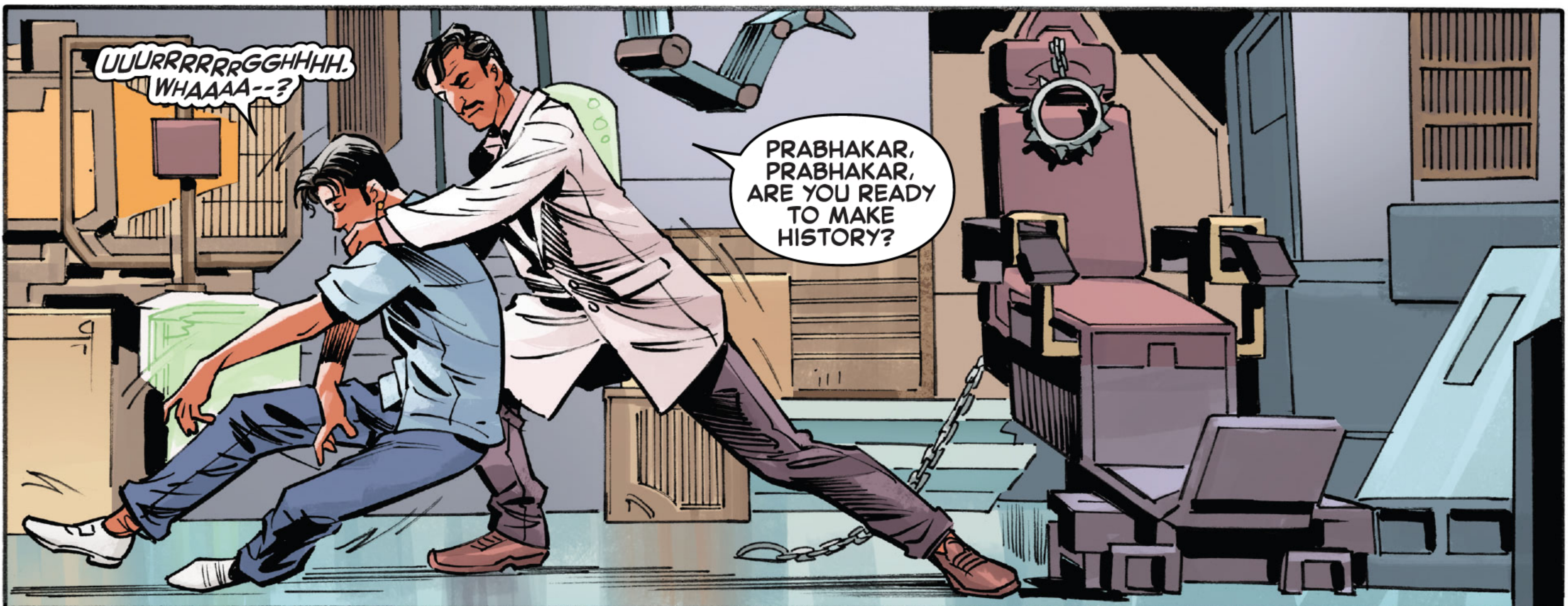
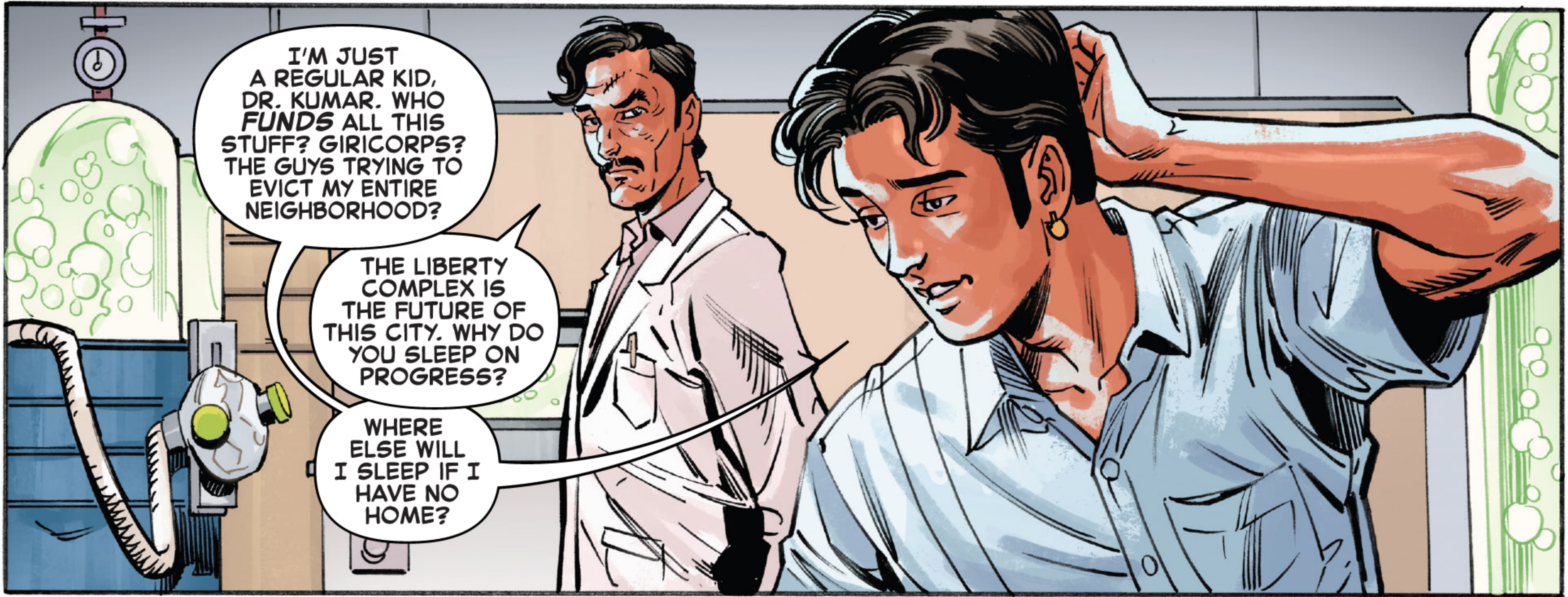
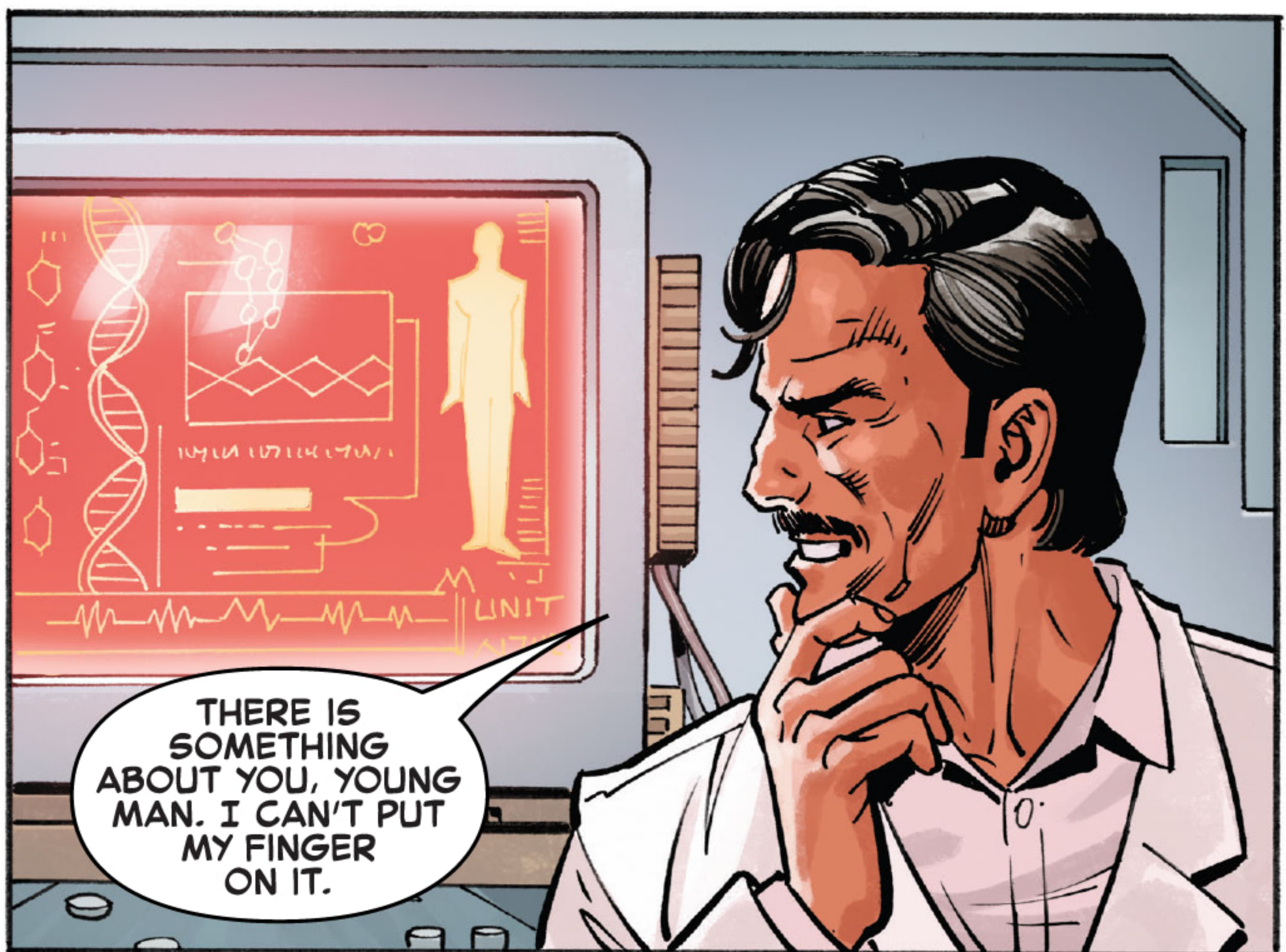
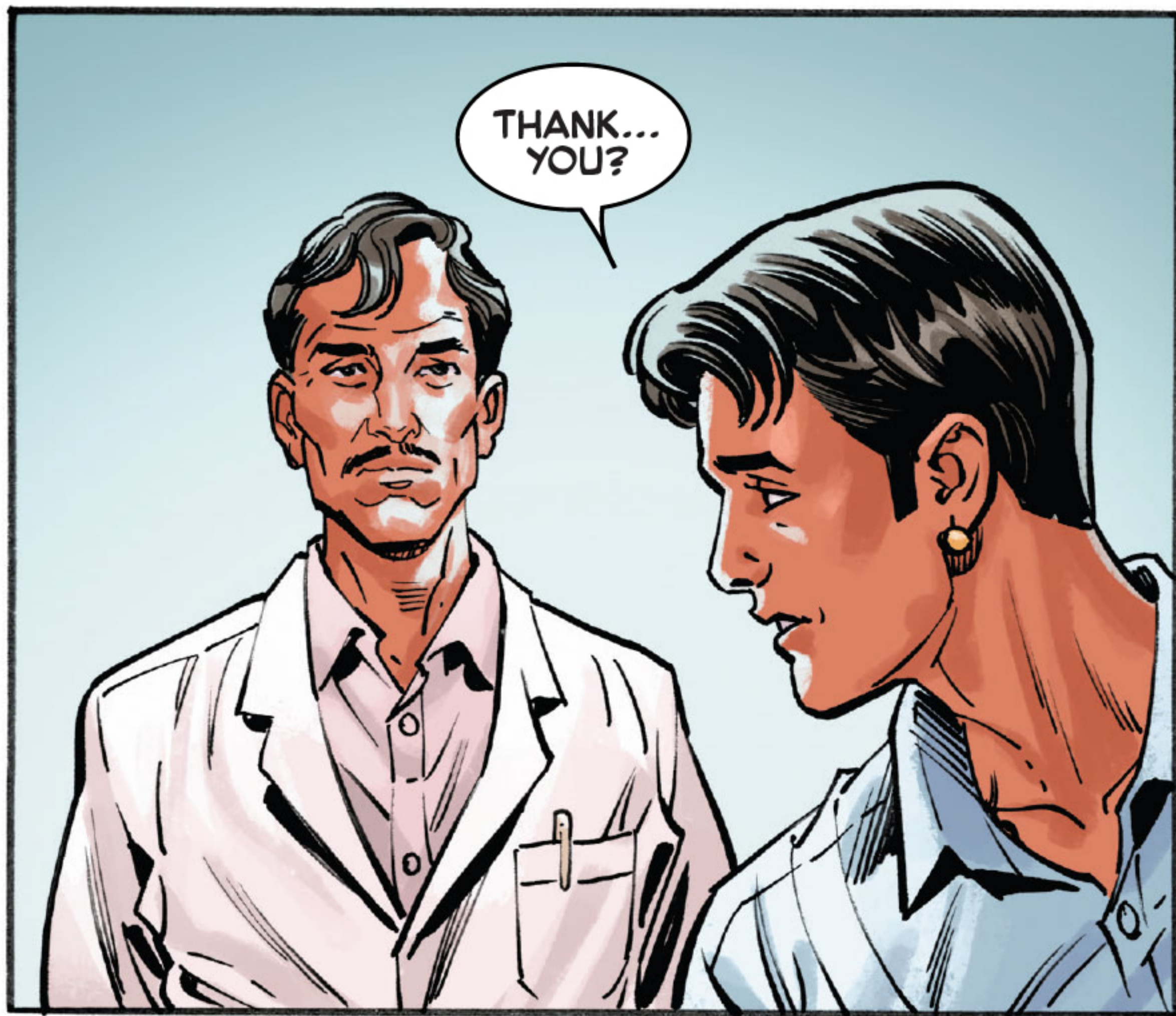


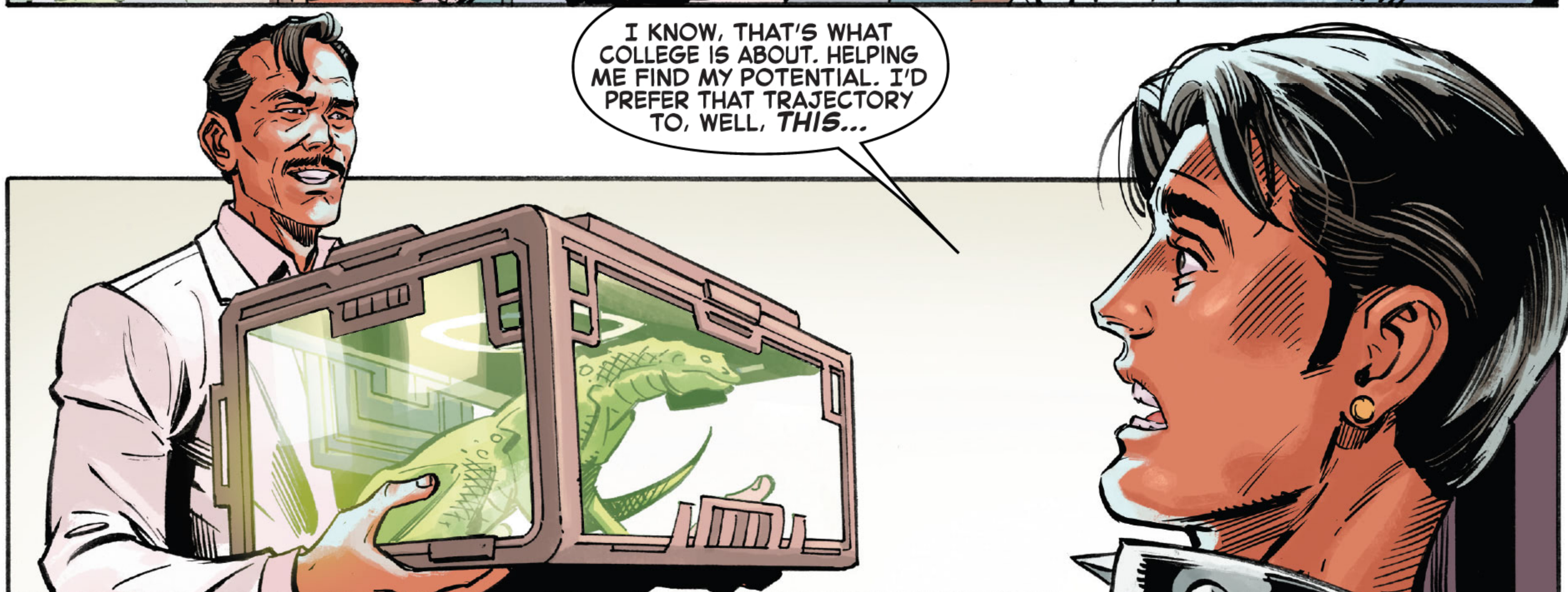
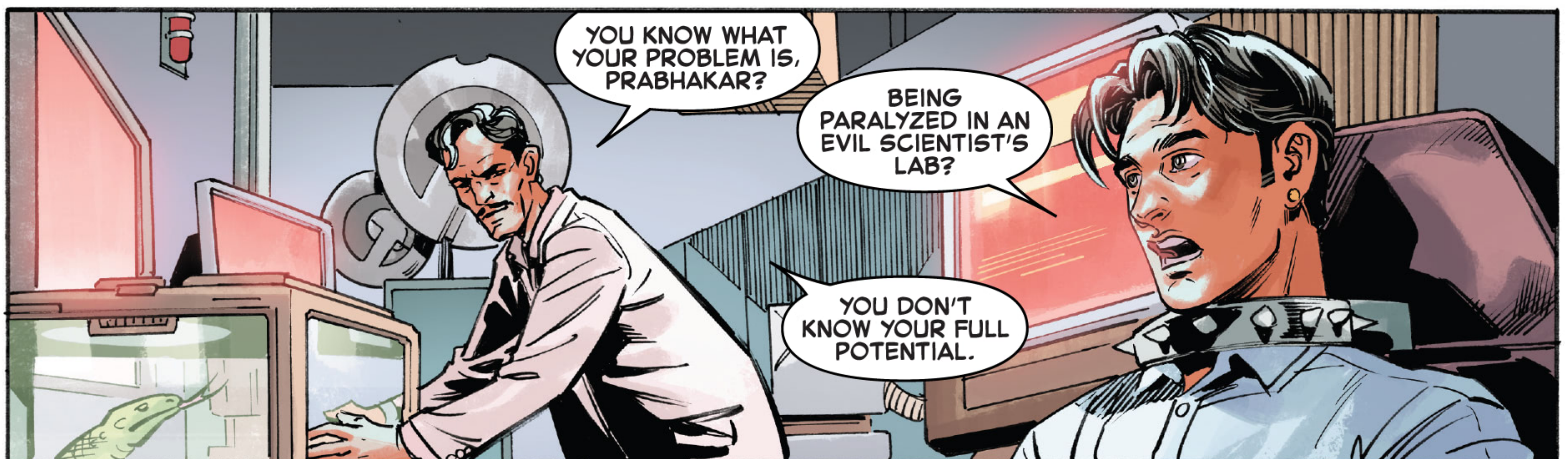
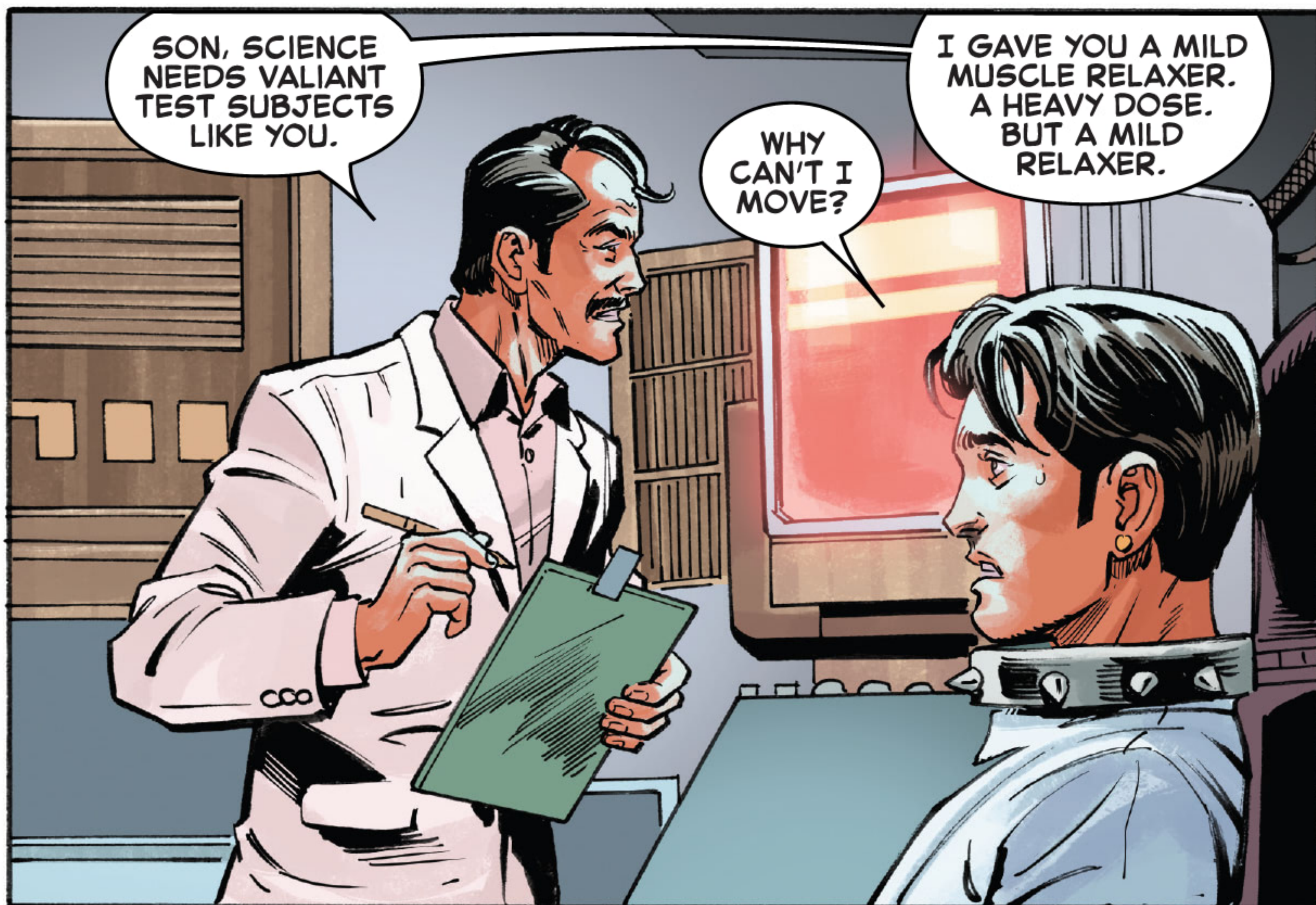
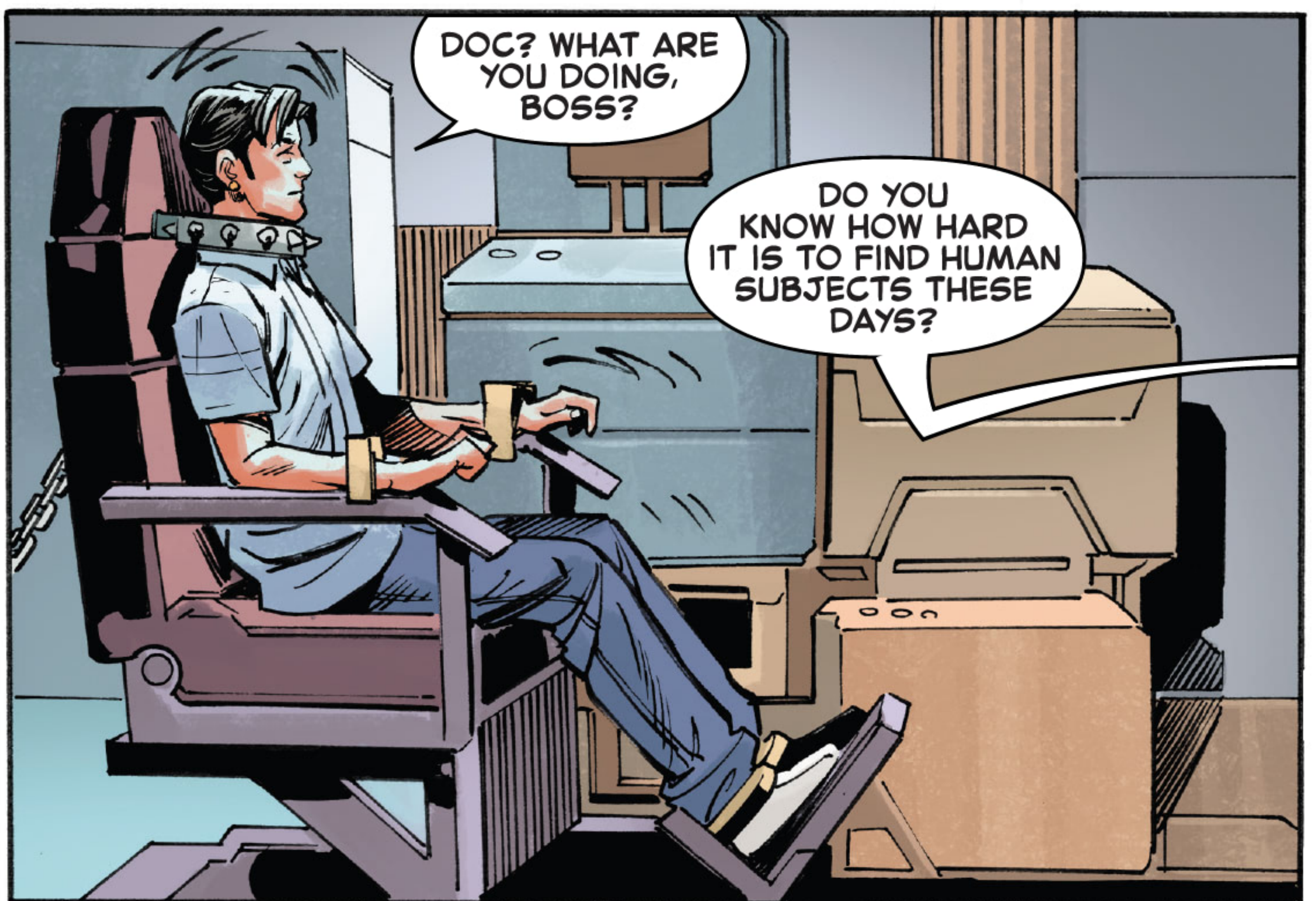
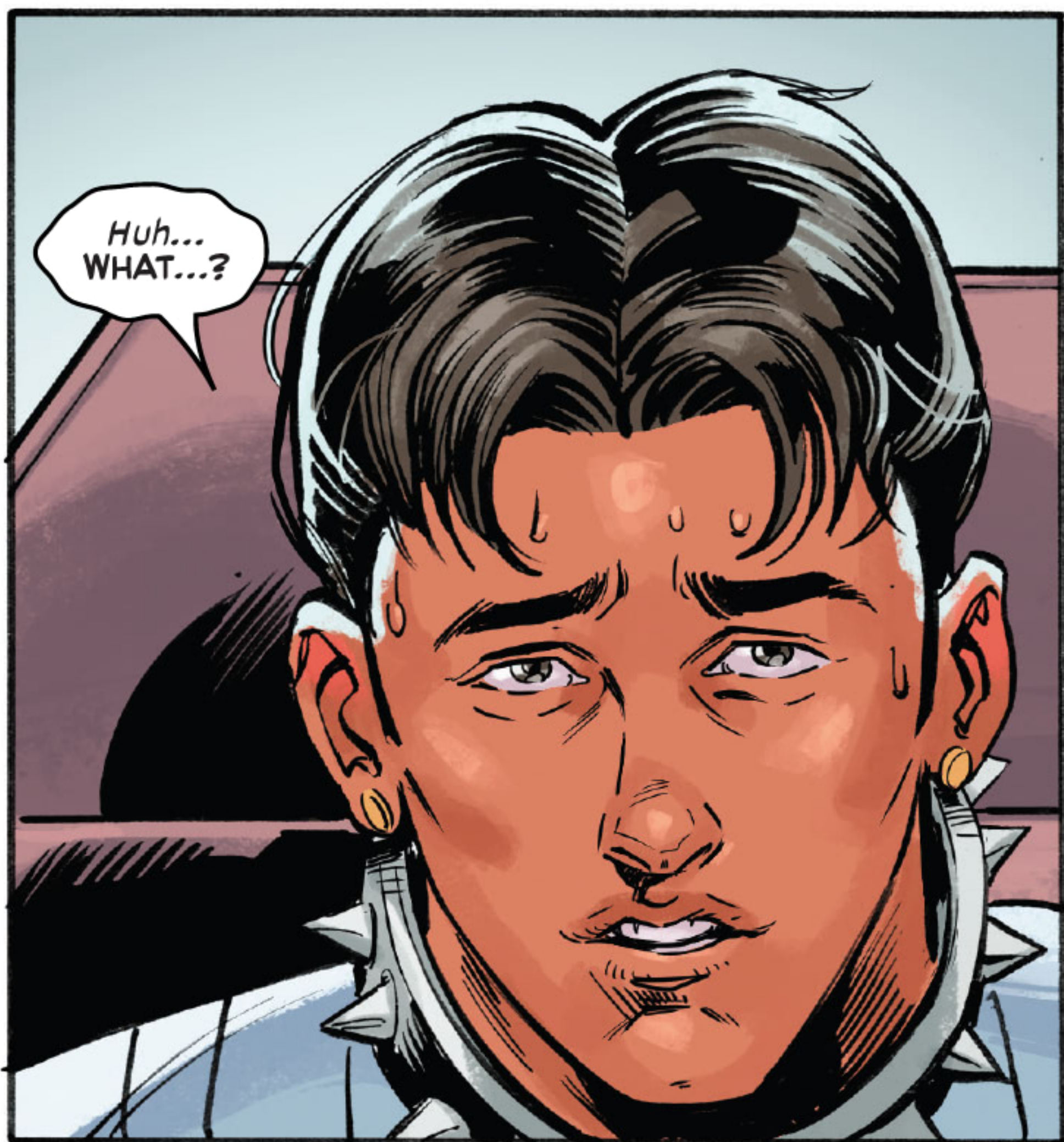
WE AS A SOCIETY HAVE
BEEN BEATEN DOWN BY
CONCEPTS LIKE COMMUNITY
AND INCLUSION. WHEN DO WE
GET TO PUT OURSELVES
FIRST?

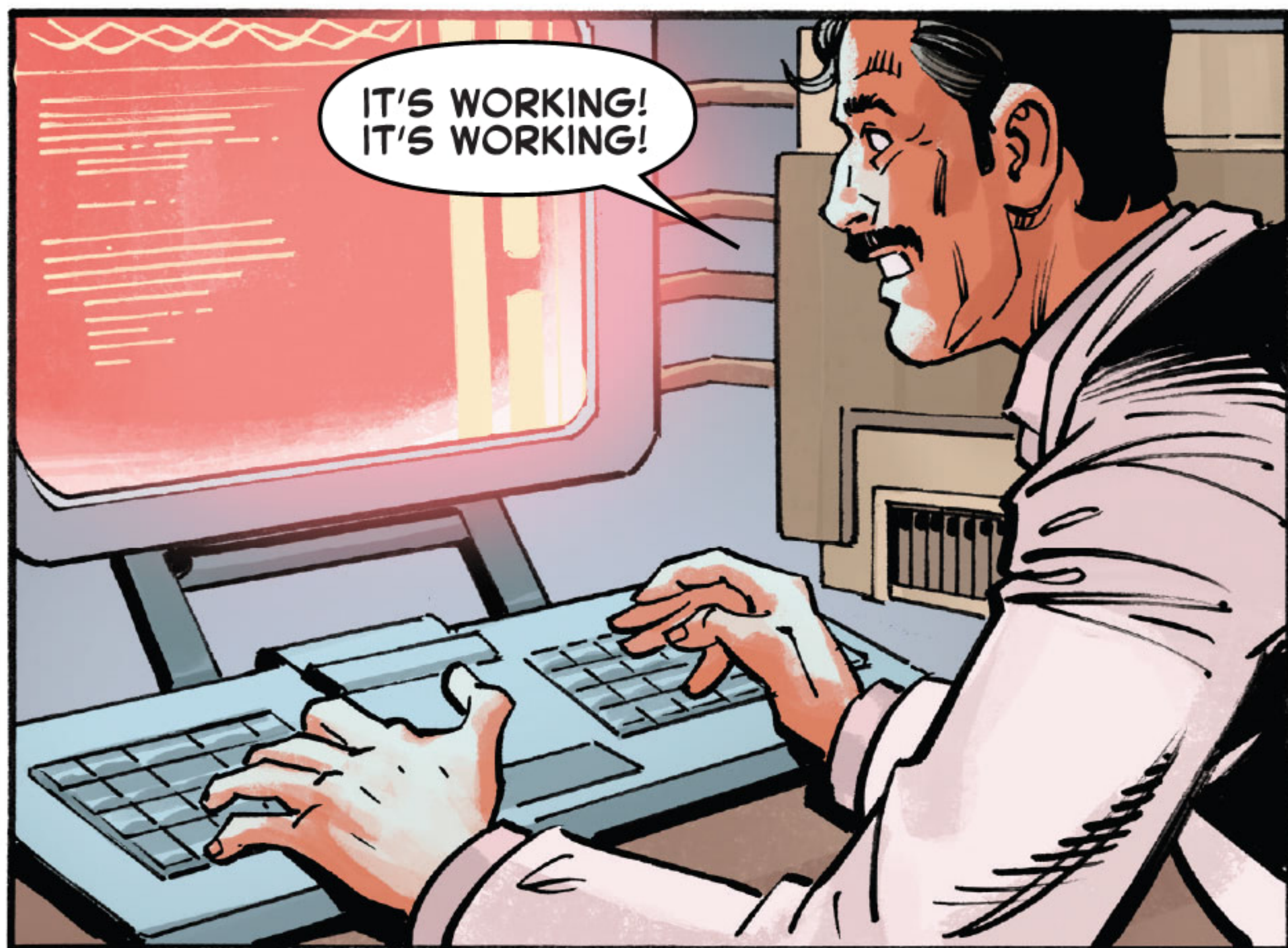
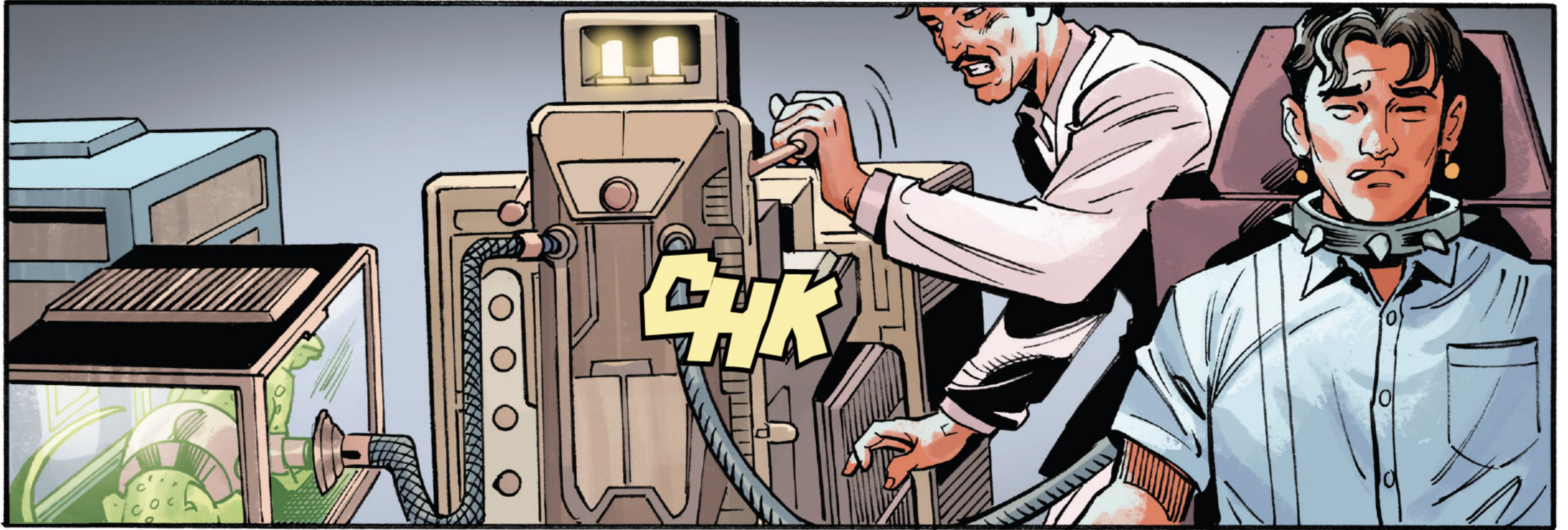
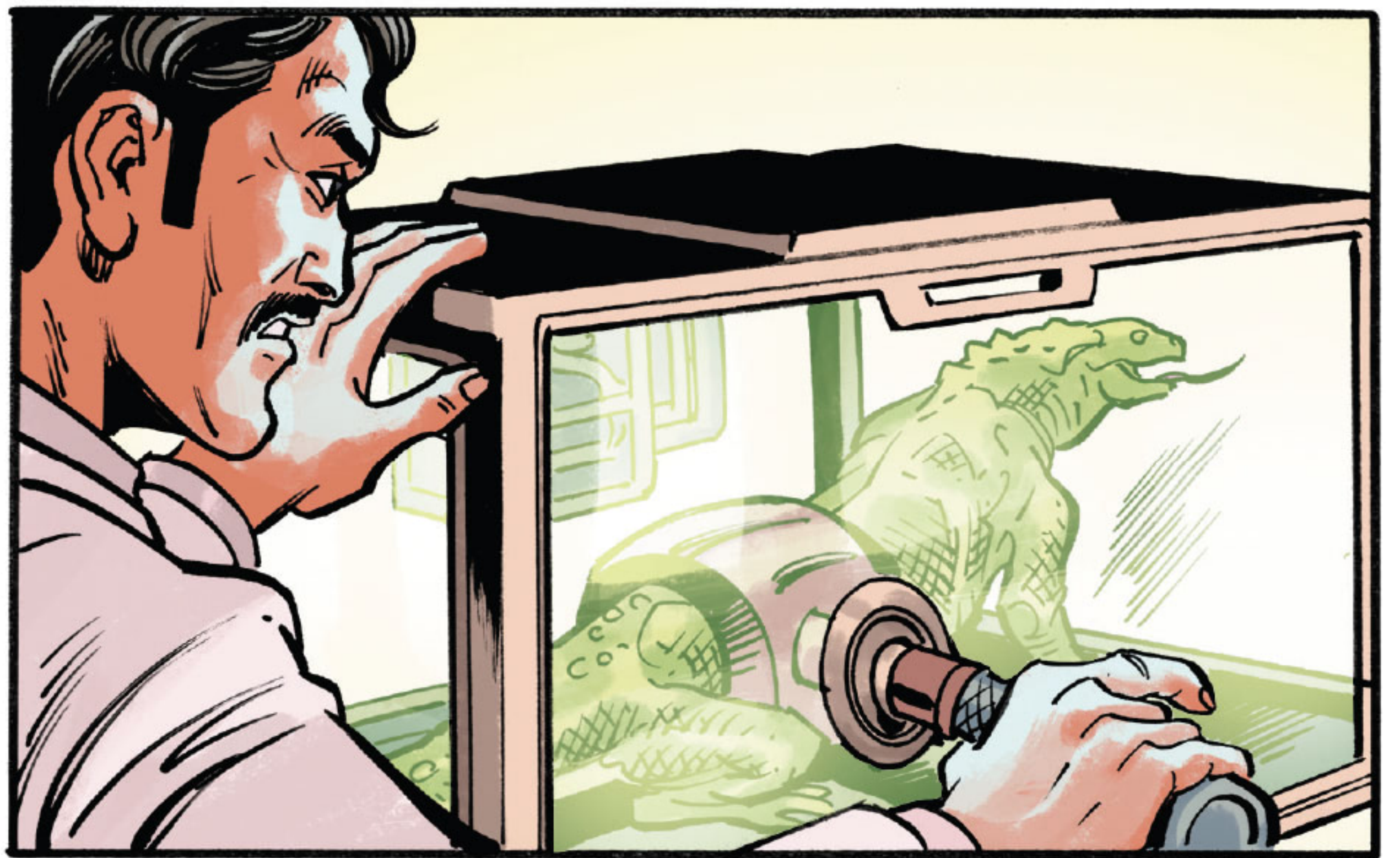
THAT'S A
VERY BINARY
WAY OF SEEING
THE WORLD, DOC.

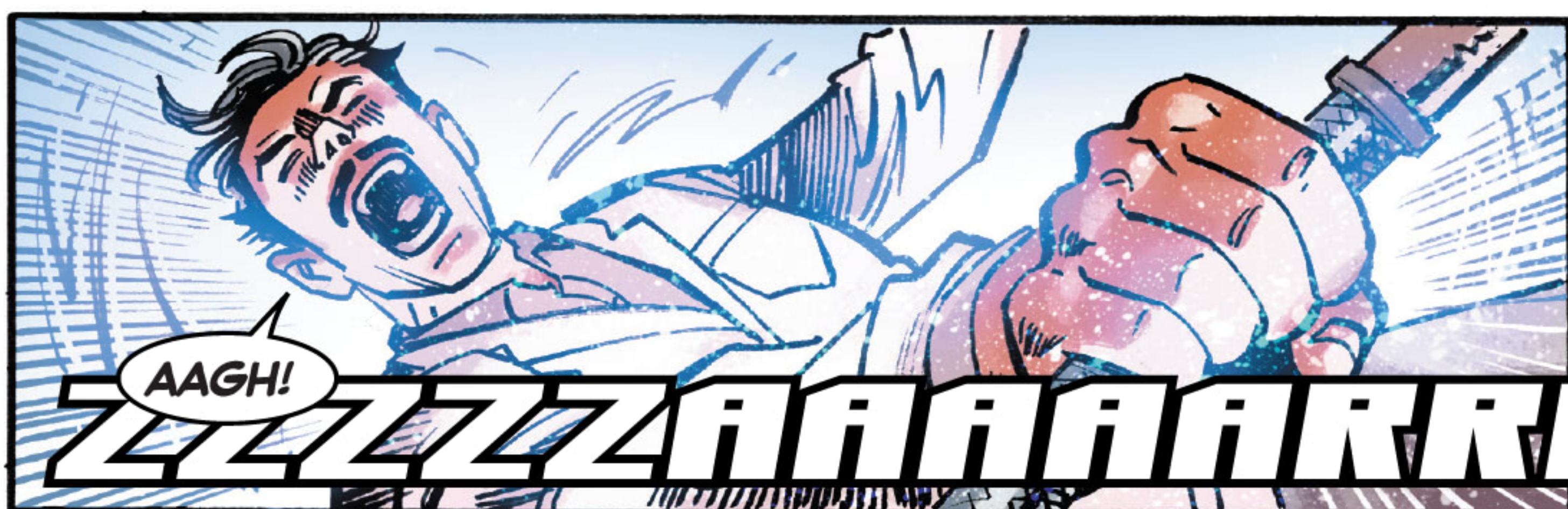
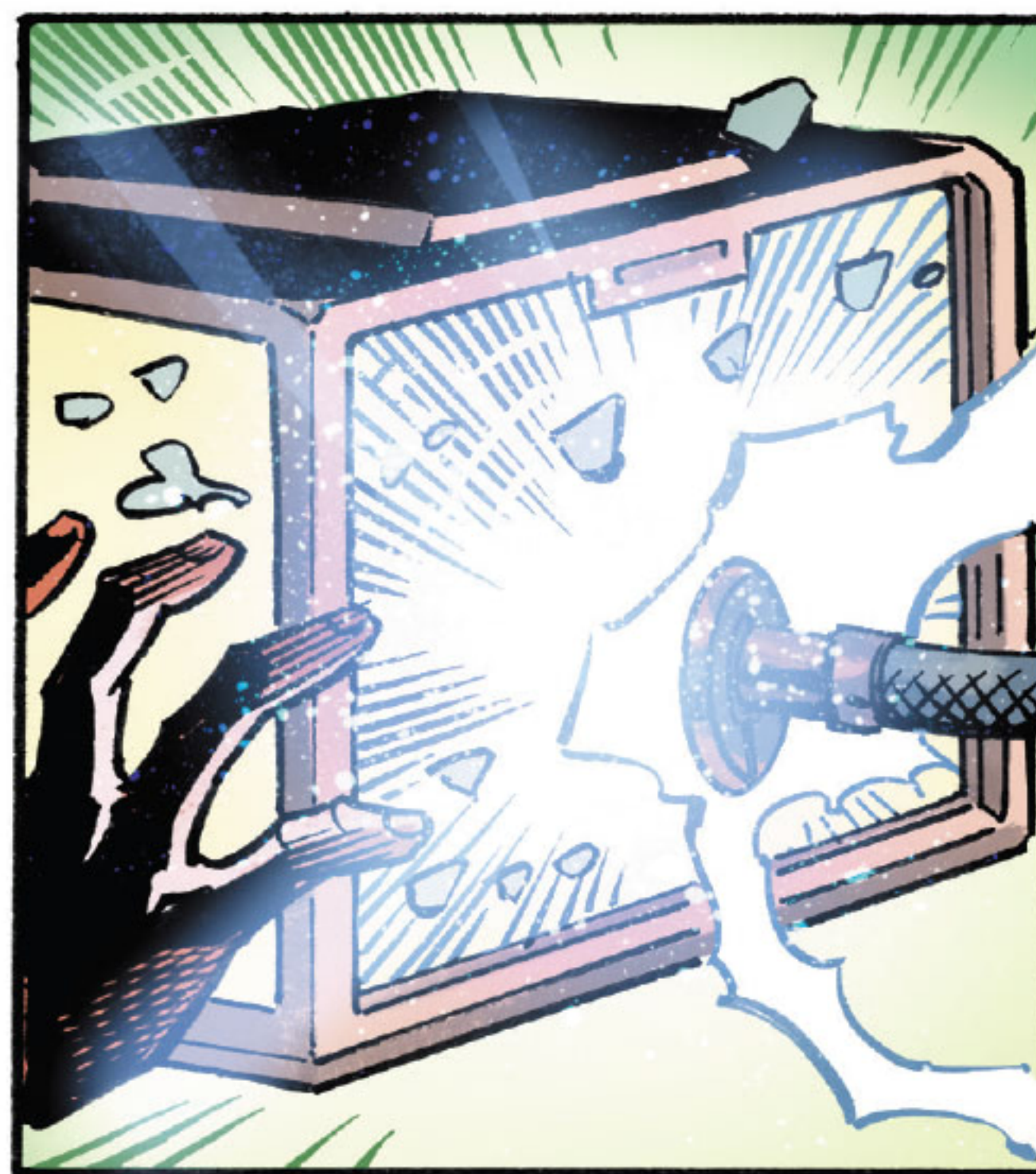
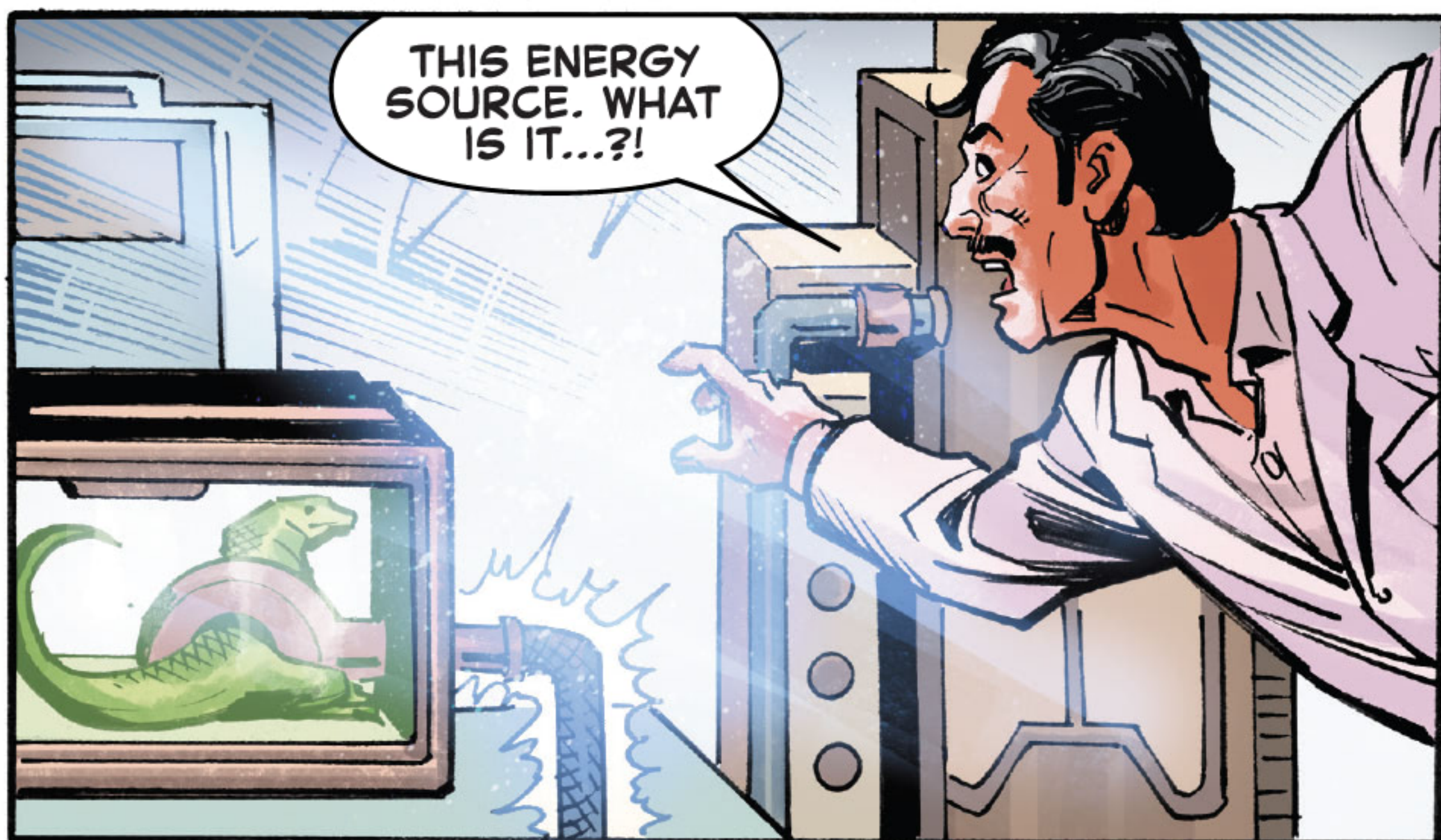


SUCH A
BIG MOUTH FOR
SUCH A SMALL
BODY.

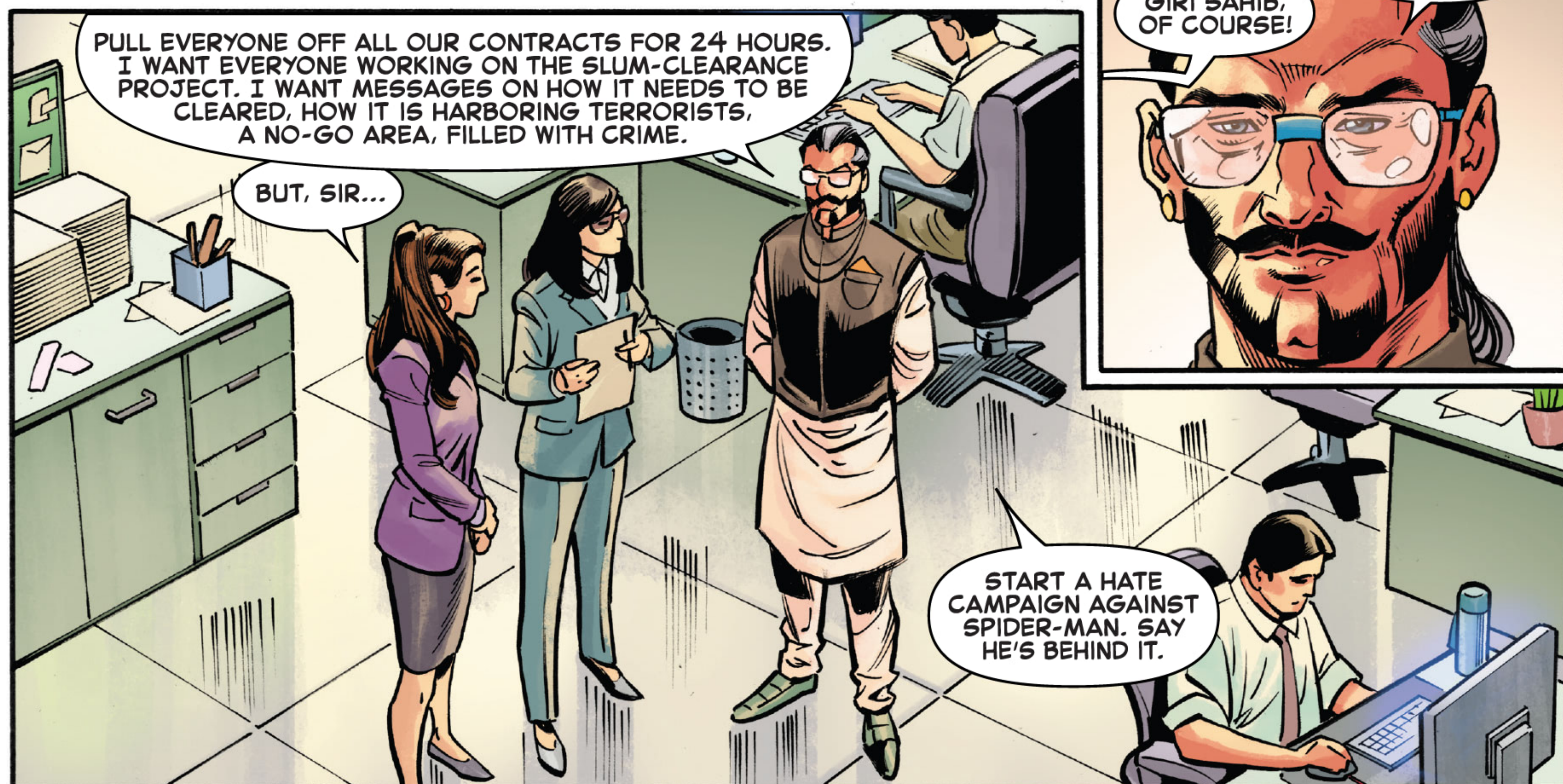
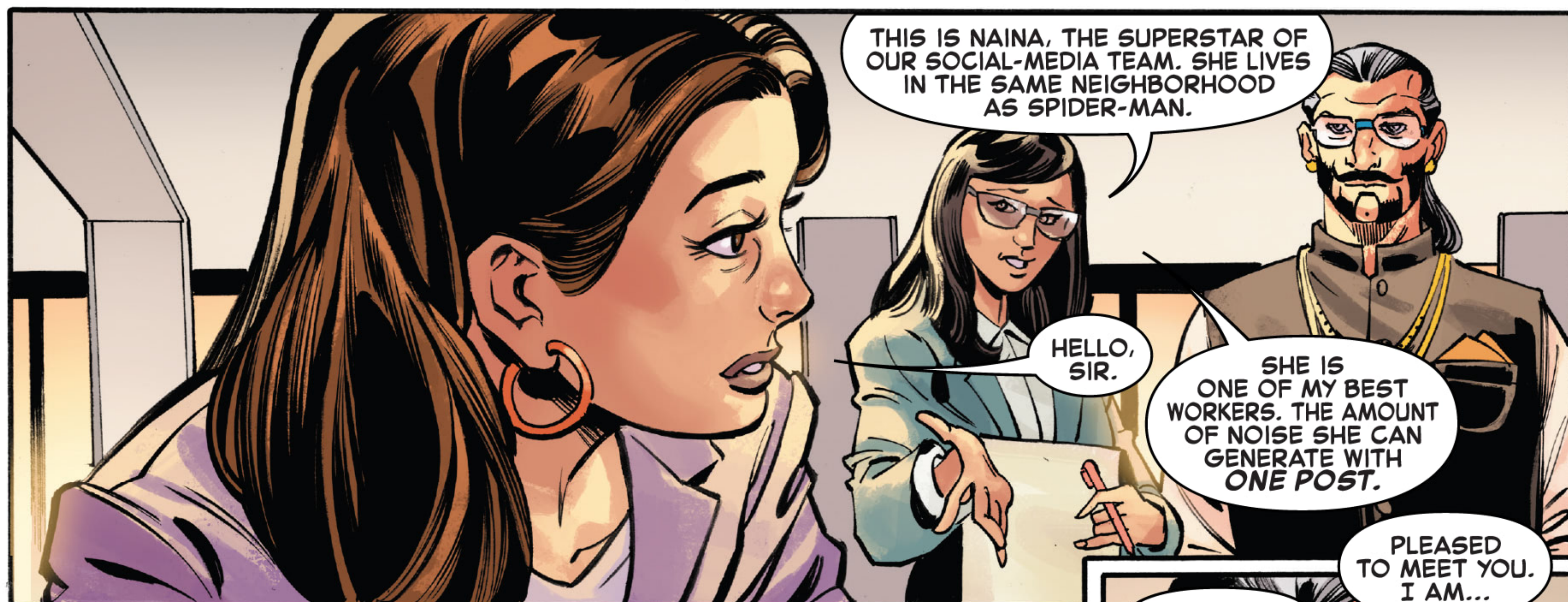
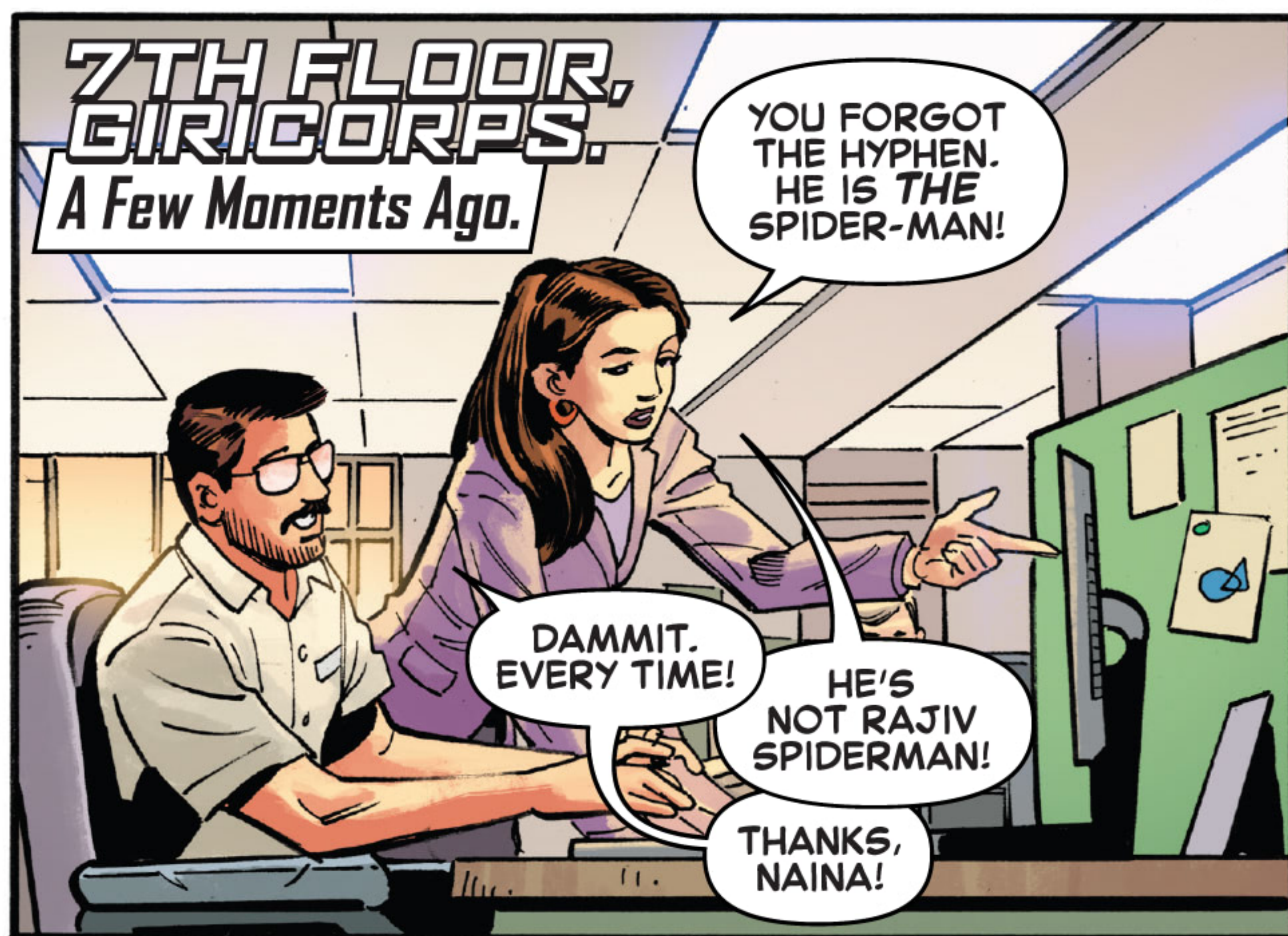


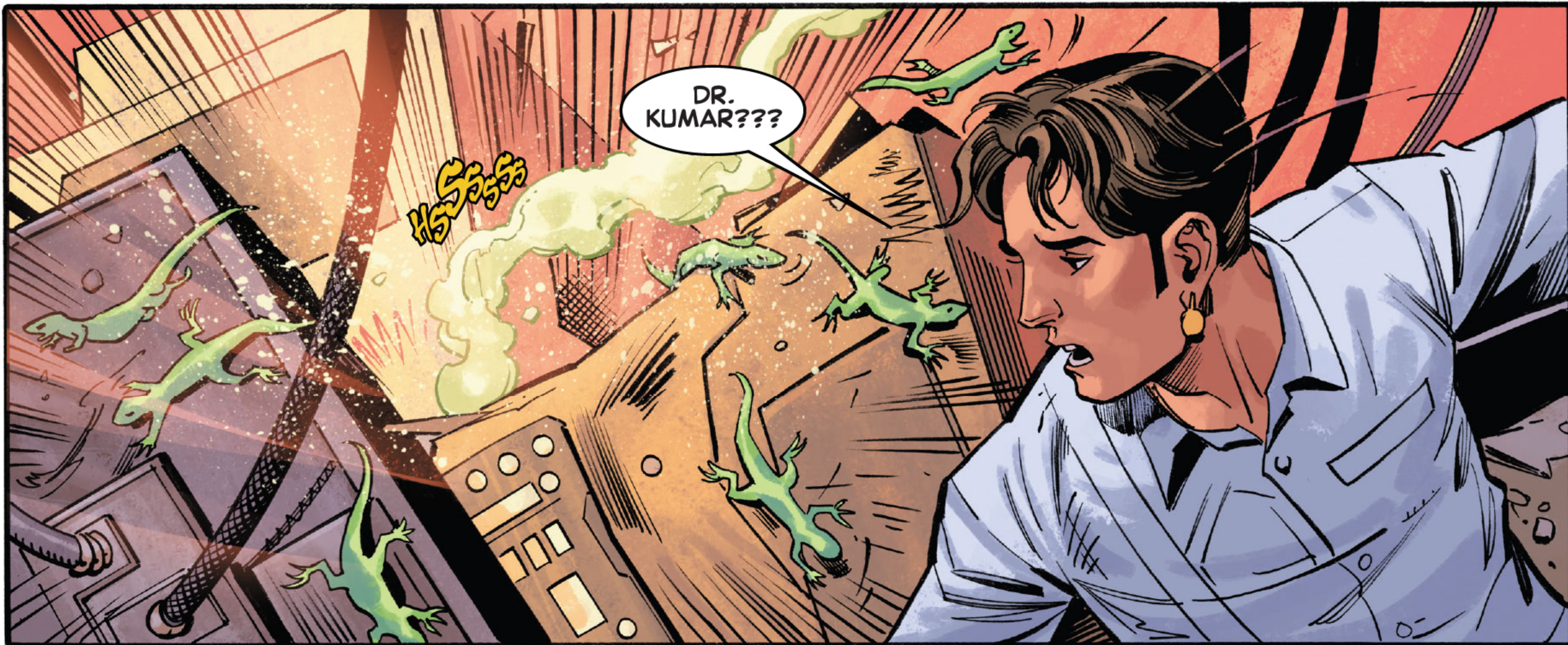
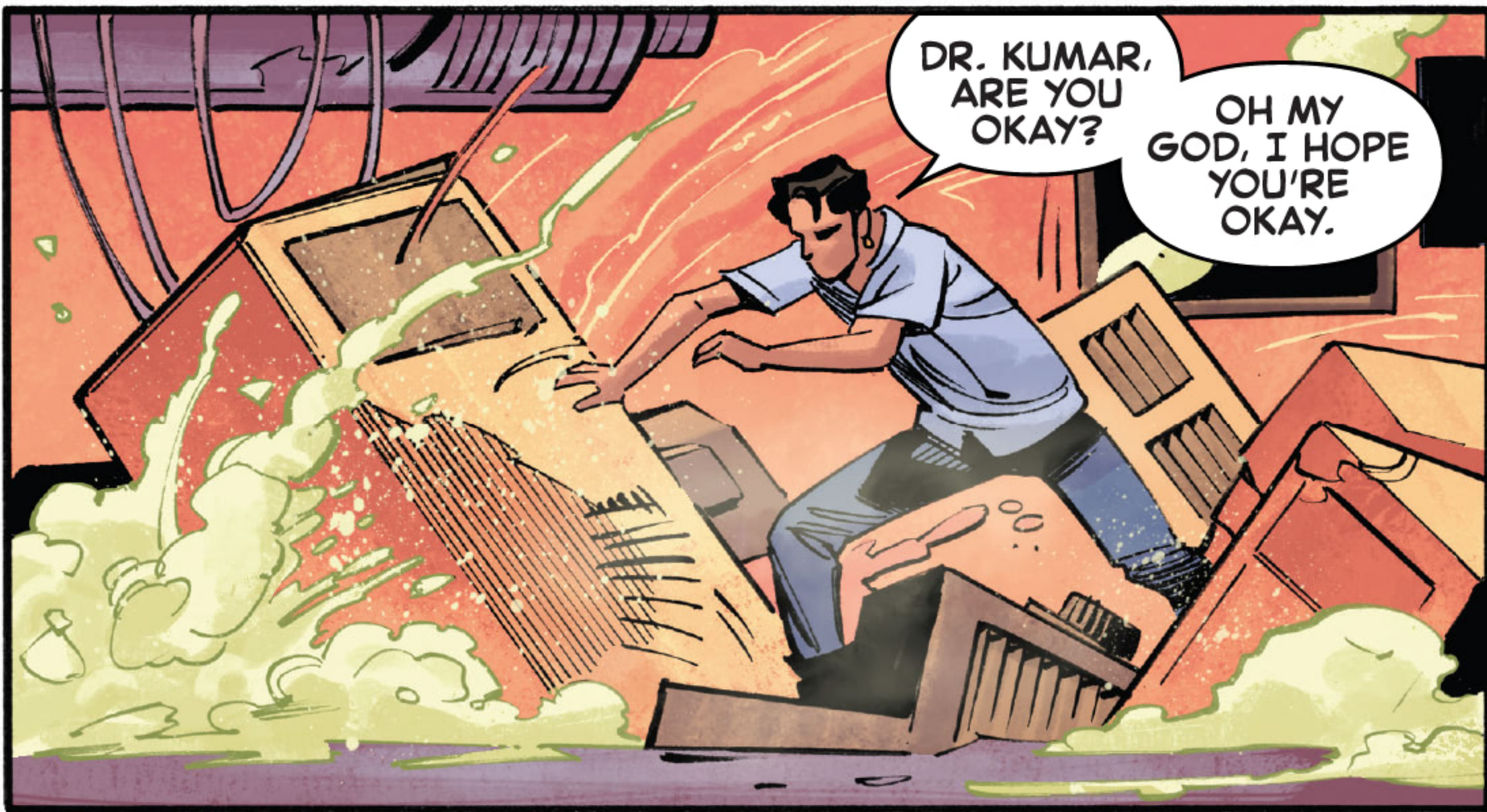
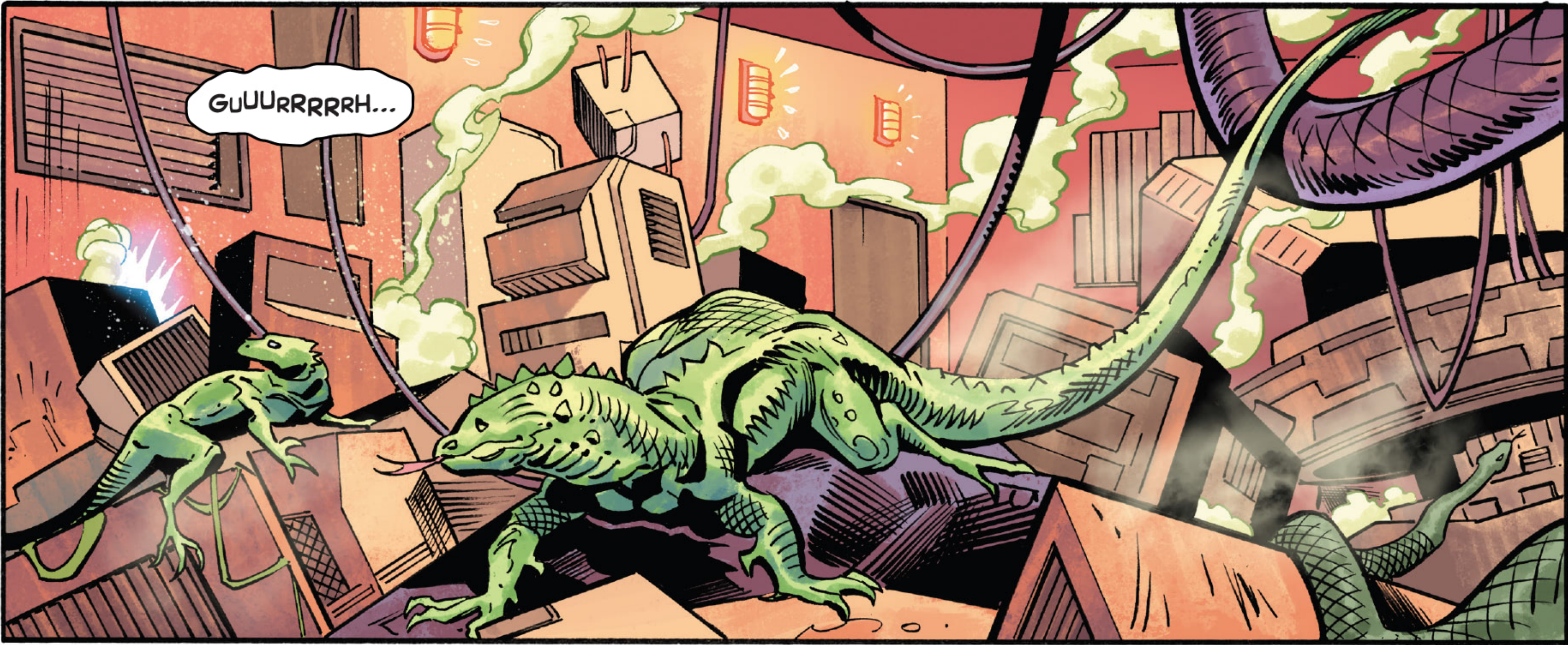






AAGH!
ZZZZAAAAARRRHH









HISSSSSS

OH...
OH No...

TO BE
CONTINUED...

SPIDER-MAN

INDIA

Hey, Webheads! It is surreal to be working on a new SPIDER-MAN: INDIA series as I was Assistant Editor on the first one twenty years ago! But you don't want to hear from me, meet writer Nikesh Shukla!

I remember flicking through the back-issue boxes in Orbital Comics in London when I came across the original SPIDER-MAN: INDIA run. I was with my buddy Kunal. And our reaction was, "OMG, THIS IS SO \$@££@(\$ COOL!" It's rare (sadly) to come across South Asian super heroes. They were even rarer in 2005, so we were both elated. To see a version of our favorite special guy bouncing around the iconic Mumbai skyline, his origin story mixed with elements of Hindu mythology, was so much fun. I loved Pavitr, his family, his friends, and his world. Bringing him back for a new miniseries is truly an honor.

So how, then, do you follow up an iconic origin-story miniseries? How do you bring a much-loved fan-favorite back into the foreground? How do you take on such an iconic character?

Well, you look within.

Once, when out walking with my mum, we found some money on the ground. I was ecstatic. Free money! That meant treating ourselves, surely. Mum was more sanguine about the whole thing.

This wasn't meant for us, she told me. We should give it to charity.

I was outraged. How could we just waste free money like that? Also, why didn't she want to use it to treat us?

She said, money like this finds its way into someone else's life and does good for them, and when it wasn't meant for us, it is not ours to spend. But we can do good with it. She reminded me of seva--selfless service to the community--something she always made time for, despite having two jobs spanning the entire week, health problems, and an annoying kid like me to deal with.

It strikes me that what Spider-Man does for the community is something akin to seva. With great power there must also come great responsibility, sure. But responsibility to whom? Well, it's the community you're a part of, surely. That's where this new miniseries is headed. Delving into the community that makes Spider-Man, the community he serves, and the reasons he does what he does. He is surrounded by avenues to do other things--think for himself, earn money, and not consider others. Meanwhile, he has a community at risk that he has to protect.

So enjoy it. It's a Spider-Man I enjoy most--a street-level Spidey. It's a community and a setting I adore, Mumbai. And it's a storyline that is filled with peril, danger, choices, and consequences but also hope, optimism, and inspiration.

It's a returning home of sorts. The first Spider-Man book I ever picked up was one gifted to me by my cousins when we were in India. I obsessively read it and reread it. If I could tell little ol' me that decades later, I'd be here, writing my own book, I'd melt past me's brain, and this book probably wouldn't exist. So this book, while it's for past me, it's also for my future me's--Sunnie, Coco, Mya, and Rohit, the apples of my eye. And for the Council of Good Friends, without whom, I'd be lost.

Right, who's hungry? I'm hungry. I'm really hungry. I'll see you for issue #2 where things get scaliier, spicier, and dicier for ol' Spidey.

Nikesh Shukla

5.3.23

You all are in for such a treat with this book! Let us know what you think by writing to spideyoffice@marvel.com, and if you mark your letters "okay to print," we might do just that in a future issue! Keep Thwippin'!

Nick Lowe
Spider-Editor
Astoria, NY

NEXT:



SPIDER-MAN

INDIA

#2

